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14   **UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT**
                 NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA
15   **SAN JOSE DIVISION**

16

17 JOHN DOE I and JOHN DOE II, on behalf   Case No. 5:23-cv-02431
   of themselves and all others similarly
18 situated,   **CLASS ACTION**

19   Plaintiffs,   **CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT**

20   v.

21 GOOGLE LLC,   **DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL**

22   Defendant.

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                            CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT

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I.   INTRODUCTION

1.   This case concerns Google LLC's ("Google") unlawful tracking, collection, and monetization of Americans' private health information from approximately 94 percent of Health Care Provider[1] web properties in the United States. Critically, this occurs without patient knowledge, authorization, or consent.

2.   As detailed herein, the private health information at issue ("Health Information") includes an individual's status as a patient of a Health Care Provider, unique patient identifiers, the specific actions taken by patients on their Health Care Provider web properties (e.g. specific time and frequency of each patient interaction, such as when a patient logs in and logs out of an online patient portal, requests an appointment, or seeks information about a specific doctor, condition, treatment, or prescription drug), and content of communications that patients exchange with their Health Care Providers. Content information, in turn, includes information pertaining to patient registrations, access to, and communications with their Health Care Provider within authenticated webpages (i.e. webpages that require log-in or other authentication, such as a patient portal), as well as content information pertaining to patient access to and communications with their Health Care Provider on unauthenticated web pages (e.g. communications relating to specific doctors, appointment requests, symptoms, conditions, treatments, insurance, and prescription drugs).

3.   All of this Health Information is tracked and collected by Google, which, in turn, allows Google to individually identify patients and their communications.

4.   Google's unlawful tracking, collection and monetization (i.e. its internal use and profiting) of Health Information occurs through the Google Source Code. When a patient interacts with a Health Care Provider web property where Google Source Code is deployed, the patient is effectively tagged by Google via Google Source Code, Google Cookies, and other identifiers. Almost

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[1] As used in this Complaint, the phrase "Health Care Provider" includes all health care providers, covered entities, and business associates whose information is protected by HIPAA or the California Confidentiality of Medical Information Act ("CMIA"). *See* 45 C.F.R. § 160.103; Cal. Civ. Code § 56. This includes doctors, clinics, psychologists, dentists, chiropractors, nursing homes, pharmacies, health insurance companies, pharmaceutical companies, and business associates such as vendors Cerner and Epic that operate online patient portals. *See id.*

immediately, the Google Source Code deposits and accesses Google Cookies (e.g. _ga, _gid, NID, IDE, DSID, and direct Google Account cookies) on the patient's device. By Google's design, some of these Google Cookies are disguised as a first-party cookie, i.e., it appears to belong to the Health Care Provider with which the patient is directly communicating. In truth, the Google Cookies belong to Google, a third-party to the patient's communications with their Health Care Provider, and they allow Google to track the patient as the patient navigates through their Health Care Providers' web property and to intercept and redirect to Google the patient's Health Information (i.e., identifiers, actions and content of communications with their Health Care Provider).

5.   Upon receipt of this unlawfully obtained Health Information, Google uses the information in its advertising systems and products, which include but are not limited to: Google Analytics, Google Ads, and Google Display Ads. As detailed below, while each of these systems and products operate individually on the front end to collect Health Information, on the back end (i.e., once within Google's systems), Google connects and aggregates the Health Information, along with other information that Google has acquired about individuals. In doing so, Google is able to amplify the knowledge and insight it has about patients, compile detailed and precise profiles on patients, and monetize that information into advertising revenue. Indeed, given Google's "omnipresent surveillance" of billions of Americans, its ability to profile individuals is unmatched.[2]

6.   The Google Source Code is deployed on most Health Care Provider web properties, making it virtually impossible for patients to avoid tracking and data collection by Google.

7.   Google's tracking, collection and monetization of patients' Health Information is in violation of federal, state, and common law that provide strict protections and safeguards regarding the inherently private and sensitive nature of this information. In fact, Google publicly admits that the federal rules on health information privacy apply to its advertising products, and that its products

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[2] Amnesty International, *Surveillance Giants: How the Business Model of Google and Facebook Threatens Human Rights* (2019), https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/pol30/1404/2019/en/ (opining that Google and other companies engage in a "surveillance-based business model" that, among other things is "an assault on the right to privacy on an unprecedented scale").

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1   are inappropriate to track, collect, and monetize Americans' health information.[3]

2   8.   Even if one puts aside the federal and state law requirements, Google's own terms of

3   service and privacy policy assure users of all Google products that it will not collect Health

4   Information without users' consent. And, as detailed below, Google assures users that it will comply

5   with applicable laws, that it will not collect Health Information without consent, and that it will not

6   use that information for purposes of personalized advertising. Through the Google Source Code,

7   Google routinely and systematically violates its promises.

8   9.   Google's own generative AI, Google Bard, confirms the impropriety of its conduct:

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27   [3]   *See,   e.g.*   Google,   *HIPAA   and   Google   Analytics*, https://support.google.com/analytics/answer/13297105?hl=en (explaining that Google Analytics is

28   not appropriate for use on Health Care Provider web properties).

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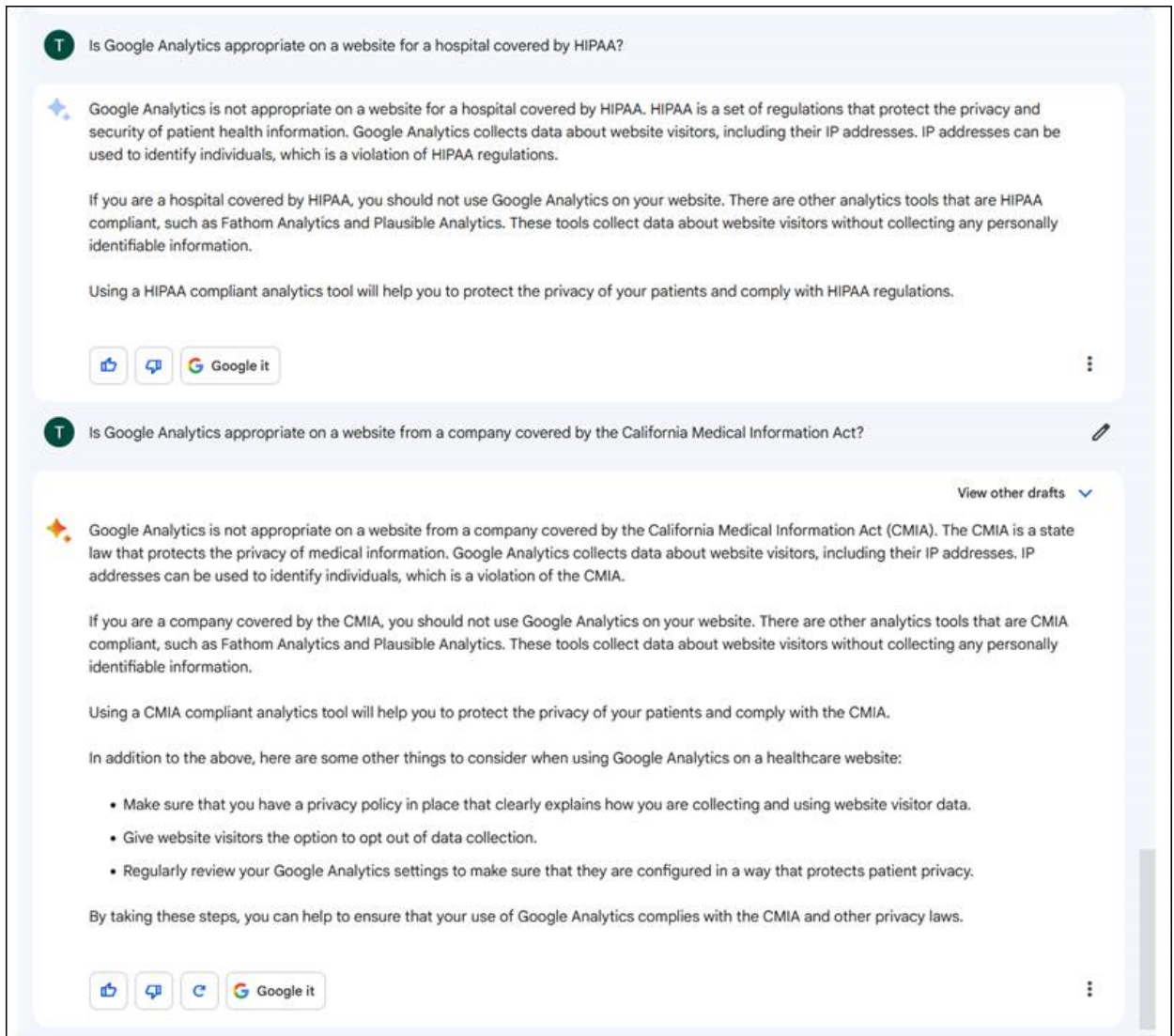
10.   Plaintiffs bring this action on behalf of themselves and others similarly situated, including Google Account Holders and Non-Google Account Holders,[4] to hold Google accountable for its unlawful tracking, collection, and monetization of patient Health Information.[5]

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[4] A Google Account holder is any person who has signed up for a Google Account through a Google service for which they were required to agree to the Google Terms of Service. Such services include but may not be limited to Gmail, YouTube, or YouTube TV. *See* Google Account Help, Create A Google Account, https://support.google.com/accounts/answer/27441?hl=en&ref_topic=3382296 (last visited May 16, 2023).

[5] This action pertains to Google's tracking, acquisition, and its internal use of Health Information. It does not pertain to any sharing or sale of information to third parties through Google's Real-Time Bidding system. The Google Real-Time bidding system is the subject of an unrelated suit: *In re*

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1   **II.   JURISDICTION, VENUE, AND ASSIGNMENT**

2   11.   This Court has personal jurisdiction over Defendant Google LLC ("Defendant" or

3   "Google"), because it is headquartered in this District and Google consents to it in its current and

4   prior Google Terms of Service. Further, Google designed, contrived and effectuated its scheme to

5   track, collect and monetize Plaintiffs and Class Members' Health Information from the State of

6   California, and Google maintains and/or oversees systems designed to effectuate this scheme within

7   the State of California.

8   12.   Venue is proper in this District, because Google is headquartered here and because its

9   current and prior Terms of Service purport to bind Plaintiffs to bring disputes in this District.

10   13.   Assignment of this case to the San Jose Division is proper pursuant to Civil Local Rule

11   3-2(e) because a substantial part of the events or omissions giving rise to Plaintiffs' claims occurred

12   in Santa Clara County, California.

13   14.   This Court has subject matter jurisdiction over the federal claims in this action.

14   15.   This Court has subject matter jurisdiction over this entire action pursuant to the Class

15   Action Fairness Act, 28 U.S.C. § 1332(d), because this is a class action in which the amount in

16   controversy exceeds $5,000,000, and at least one member of the class is a citizen of a state other than

17   the state in which Google maintains its headquarters (California) and in which it is incorporated

18   (Delaware).

19   16.   This Court has supplemental jurisdiction over the state law claims in this action

20   pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1367, because the state law claims form part of the same case or controversy

21   as those that give rise to the federal claims.

22   **III.   PARTIES**

23   17.   Plaintiff John Doe I is a resident of Wisconsin and a patient of Health Care Provider

24   Gundersen Health System (Gundersen). Gundersen owns and operates hospitals and clinics in

25   Wisconsin, Minnesota and Iowa, and owns and operates a web property at the domain

26   www.gundersenhealth.org and a patient portal at the subdomain mychart.gundersenhealth.org. John

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Google RTB Consumer Privacy Litigation, Case No. 21-cv-02155-YGR-VKD (N.D. Cal.) (currently

28   pending).

Doe I exchanged communications about his care (including his conditions, treatments, providers, and appointments) with his Health Care Provider, Gundersen, on the Gundersen web property, including on the patient portal. John Doe I had a reasonable expectation that Google would not track, collect, or monetize the Health Information he exchanged with his Health Care Provider. Nonetheless, without his knowledge or consent, Google tracked, collected, and monetized his Health Information exchanged with his Health Care Provider. Upon information and belief, based on the investigation of counsel, Google tracked, collected, and monetized John Doe I's Health Information exchanged with his Health Care Provider on the Gundersen web property, including on the Gundersen patient portal. Google did so through, among other things, the Google Source Code.

18.   Plaintiff John Doe II is a resident of Maryland and a patient of Health Care Provider MedStar Health ("MedStar"). MedStar owns and operates various hospitals in the Baltimore-Washington metropolitan area, and owns and operates the MedStar web property at the domain www.medstarhealth.org and a patient portal located at www.medstarhealth.org/mymedstar-patient-portal. John Doe II exchanged communications about his care (including his conditions, treatments, providers, and appointments) with his Health Care Provider, MedStar, on the MedStar web property, including on the patient portal. John Doe II had a reasonable expectation that Google would not track, collect, or monetize his Health Information exchanged with his Health Care Provider. Nonetheless, without his knowledge or consent, Google tracked, collected, and monetized his Health Information exchanged with his Health Care Provider. Upon information and belief, based on the investigation of counsel, Google tracked, collected, and monetized John Doe II's Health Information exchanged with his Health Care Provider on the MedStar web property, including on the MedStar patient portal. Google did so through, among other things, the Google Source Code.

19.   Defendant Google LLC is a Delaware Limited Liability Company headquartered at 1600 Amphitheatre Parkway, Mountain View, California, whose membership interests are entirely held by its parent holding company, Alphabet, Inc. ("Alphabet"), headquartered at the same address. Alphabet trades under the stock trading symbols GOOG and GOOGL. Alphabet generates revenues primarily by delivering targeted online advertising through the Google subsidiary. All operations relevant to this Complaint are run by Google.

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IV.   **FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS**

  A.   **The Health Information at Issue**

  20.   As noted above, the Health Information at issue in this action includes information identifying an individual's status as a patient of a specific Health Care Provider, unique patient identifiers, the specific actions taken by patients on their Health Care Provider web properties, and content of communications that patients exchange with their Health Care Providers.

  21.   Identifiers. As used in this Complaint, unique patient identifiers include but are not limited:

    a.   Names;

    b.   Geolocation;

    c.   Demographic information;

    d.   Internet Protocol (IP) addresses;

    e.   User Agent information;

    f.   Device identifiers;

    g.   Device qualities sufficient to uniquely identify the device;

    h.   The NID cookie associated with transmissions to Google.com from non-Google websites and directly on Google.com;

    i.   Google Account identifying cookies associated with transmissions to Google.com from non-Google websites and directly on Google.com;

    j.   The IDE cookie associated with transmissions to Doubleclick.net from non-Google websites;

    k.   The DSID cookie associated with transmissions to Doubleclick.net from non-Google websites;

    l.   The _ga, _gid, and other Google cookies associated with Google Analytics;

    m.   The cid, gid, and other user or device identifying data parameters associated with Google Analytics;

    n.   Any publisher provided identifier provided to Google; and

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o.   Any other cookies or identifiers that permit Google to track a user across sites or devices.

22.   As discussed further below, these identifiers constitute protected information under federal and California state law. *See, e.g.* HIPAA, 42 U.S.C. § 1320(6) and 45 C.F.R. 160.103; California Consumer Protection Act (CCPA), Cal. Civ. Code § 1798.140(v)(1)*;* California Confidentiality of Medical Information Act (CMIA), Cal. Civ. Code § 56.05(i).

23.   <u>Specific Actions & Content of Communications</u>: As used in this Complaint, the specific actions taken and content of communications that patients exchanged with their Health Care Providers may include and are not limited to:

a.   Browsing history and URL information which reveals the substance, purport, and meaning of communications between patients and their Health Care Providers, including information exchanged inside of authenticated (e.g., patient portals) and unauthenticated pages relating to Health Care Providers, services, appointments, conditions, treatments, health insurance, and more;

b.   Action information which reveals the precise actions taken by the patient on their Health Care Provider's web property, for example, the buttons clicked (such as logging in or out of a patient portal), requests for appointments made, or other information requested;

c.   Form fill information which reveals the information provided by patients to their Health Care Providers;

d.   Timing and frequency of patient visits to their Health Care Provider's web property, for example precise times of log-ins and log-outs to patient portals; and

e.   Information Google collects from Health Care Providers through customer lists that are uploaded to Google.

24.   As discussed further below, the above information constitutes protected health and personal information under federal and California state law (*see, e.g.*, HIPAA, 42 U.S.C. § 1320(6) and 45 C.F.R. 160.103; California Consumer Protection Act, Cal. Civ. Code § 1798.140(v)(1);

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California Confidentiality of Medical Information Act, Cal. Civ. Code § 56.05(i)), as well as "content" of electronic communications protected under federal and state wiretap acts (*see, e.g.* Electronic Communications Protection Act, 18 U.S.C. § 2511; California Invasion of Privacy Act, Cal. Penal Code § 631).

B.   How Google Unlawfully Tracks And Collects Patients' Health Information

25.   Google's unlawful tracking, collection, and monetization of patients' Health Information occurs both on web-browsers and on apps. The nature of Health Information that is acquired is the same or substantially similar regardless of whether it is obtained on a web-browser or on an app.

26.   Google's unlawful tracking, collection and monetization of patient Health Information occurs primarily through the use of (1) the Google Source Code, and (2) "offline" sources.

1.   The Google Source Code

27.   Google has created several source codes that are designed to track and collect individuals' information when they are browsing the Internet. At issue here are the source codes associated with Google's advertising systems and products (the "Google Source Code"), including but not limited to the source code associated with: (1) Google Analytics; (2) Google Ads; and (3) Google Display Ads.[6]

28.   The Google Source Code is provided by Google in a copy-and-paste format and its functionality is uniform on all web properties.

29.   When the Google Source Code is placed on a Health Care Provider's web property, the Google Source Code commands the patient's computing device, either through the web-browser or the app, to track, intercept and redirect the patient's Health Information to Google.

30.   This tracking, interception and redirection of Health Information occurs when patients are exchanging communications with their Health Care Providers using web-browsers and when they are using apps that have adopted any of Google's SDK or "software development kits" (i.e., an app that has integrated the Google Source Code via Google SDK).

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[6] As noted above, this action does not pertain to Google's Real-Time Bidding system, which is the subject of a separate and unrelated litigation.

31.   Upon information and belief, there are three primary Google advertising systems and products that use the Google Source Code to track and collect patients' Health Information and then, in turn, monetize that Health Information for purposes of targeted advertising. These advertising systems include but are not limited to: (1) Google Analytics; (2) Google Ads; and (3) Google Display Ads.

a.   Google Analytics

32.   Google Analytics is an advertising tool for Google. It is touted by Google to be a tool that enables clients to "understand the customer journey and improve marketing ROI."[7] Specifically, Google Analytics is intended to help advertisers:

a.   "Unlock customer-centric measurement" to "[u]nderstand how your customers interact across your sites and apps, throughout their entire lifecycle[,]";

b.   "Get smarter insights to improve ROI," to "[u]ncover new insights and anticipate future customer actions with Google's machine learning to get more value out of your data;" and

c.   "Connect your insights to results," to "[t]ake action to optimize marketing performance with integrations across Google's advertising and publisher tools[.]"[8]

33.   Google Analytics is also "[d]esigned to work seamlessly with other Google solutions and partner products," which includes other Google advertising products, such as: Google Ads, Display & Video 360, Search Ads 360, Google Cloud, Salesforce Marketing Cloud Integration, Google Ad Manager, and Google AdMob.[9]

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[7] Google Marketing Platform, *Analytics*, https://marketingplatform.google.com/about/analytics/ (last visited May 16, 2023).

[8] *Id.*

[9]   *See   id.;*   Google   Marketing   Platform,   *Analytics   360*, https://marketingplatform.google.com/about/analytics-360/features/#integrations (last visited May 16, 2023).

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34.   Google Analytics is associated with the domains www.Google-Analytics.com and analytics.google.com.

35.   Upon information and belief, based on the investigation of counsel and expert analysis, the Google Source Code intercepts and redirects patient Health Information to Google Analytics on approximately 75 percent (or at least 2,989) of Health Care Provider properties in the United States.

36.   When the Google Source Code for Google Analytics is present on a Health Care Provider's website, that source code commands patients' communications devices to track, intercept, and send patients' Health Information to Google.

37.   Google has published the below diagram explaining this data flow:[10]

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[10] *See* Google Analytics Help at https://support.google.com/analytics/answer/6004245, hyperlink: Download this diagram that explains how Google Analytics collects, filters, and stores data (last visited May 16, 2023).

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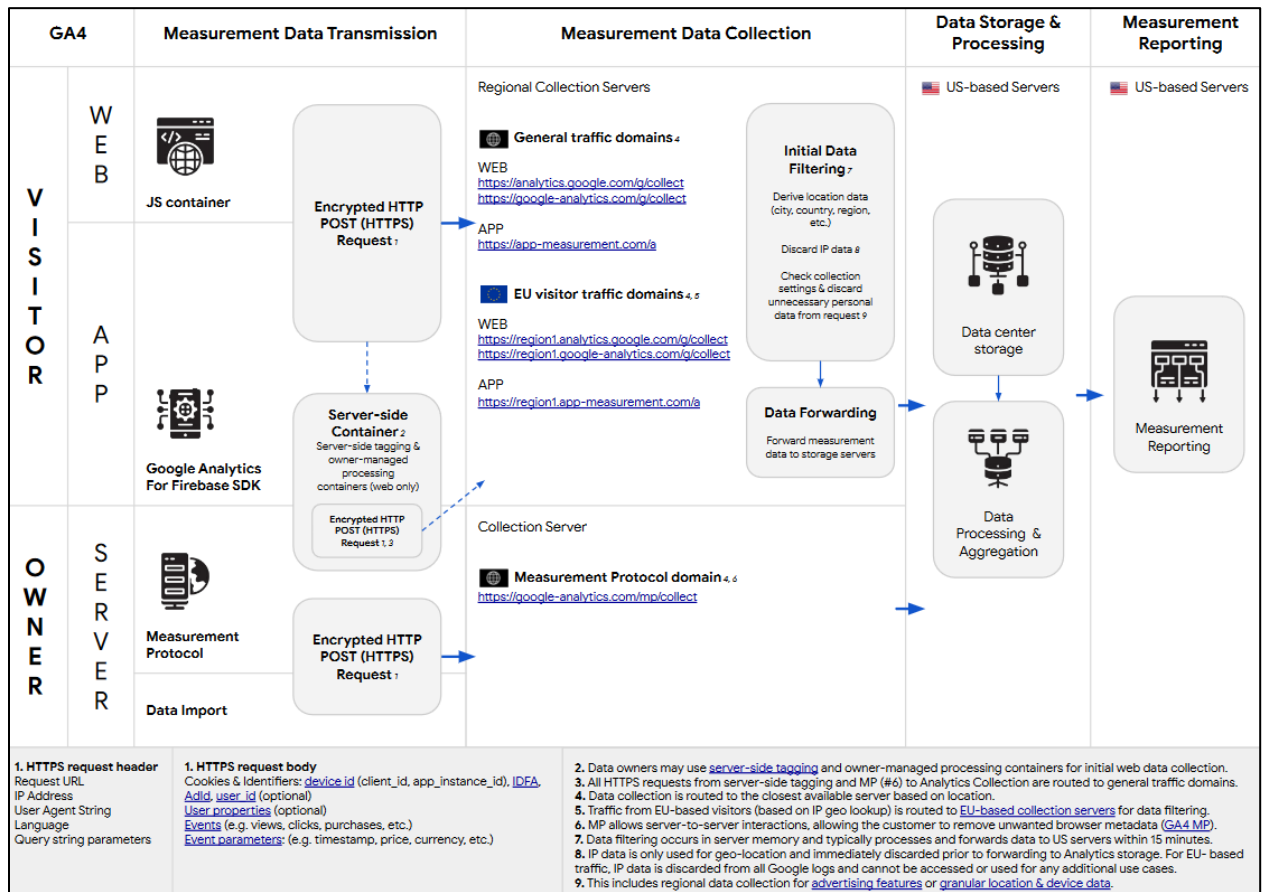
38.   As illustrated in the above diagram, the Google Source Code causes the interception and redirection of HTTPS Requests to Google Analytics. According to Google's own diagram, the redirected HTTPS request includes, among other things: "Cookies & Identifiers," which include the identifiers at issue in this action; and "Request URL" and "Query string parameters," which include the "content of communications" at issue in this action.

39.   Plaintiffs provide an explanation for each of these categories of information below using MedStar as an example.

40.   Cookies: Cookies are small text files that are saved to browsers for, among other things, tracking Internet users and their browsing history. First-party cookies belong to a web property on which an individual is directly communicating and, typically, remain only on that web property. Third-party cookies originate from a web property that a user is not currently interacting with. Third-party cookies are often referred to as "tracking cookies" because they exist primarily to enable third

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1 | parties to track individuals as they navigate the internet and collect their personal information.

2 | 41. When a patient visits a Health Care Provider web property where the Google Source
3 | Code for Google Analytics is present, that source code is designed to deposit Google Analytics'
4 | cookies, named _ga, _gid and _gcl_au, on the patient's computing device. Although these cookies
5 | belong to Google (who is a third party to the communication between a patient and their Health Care
6 | Provider), the Google Analytics Source Code disguises these cookies as "first-party" cookies that
7 | belong to the Health Care Provider.

8 | 42. For example, MedStar's web property has been embedded with the Google Source
9 | Code for Google Analytics. When a patient visits the MedStar homepage or patient portal, the Google
10 | Source Code deposits Google Analytics' cookies on to the patient's device and designates these
11 | cookies as belonging to MedStar.

12 | 43. By disguising the Google Analytics cookies as belonging to MedStar (a first party to
13 | the communication) instead of Google (a third party to the communication), the Google Source Code
14 | is able to circumvent security measures that would prevent third-party tracking via third-party
15 | cookies. That is, a patient's attempt to block third-party cookies would fail with respect to the Google
16 | Analytics cookies, because the Google Source Code has disguised these cookies as belonging to first
17 | party Medstar.

18 | 44. Because the Google Analytics cookies are disguised as first-party cookies they will
19 | likely never be blocked, because Health Care Providers typically require acceptance of first-party
20 | cookies for a patient to engage with their web properties, including engagement with any
21 | "authenticated" activity (e.g. patient portals) on the Health Care Providers' web properties. For
22 | example, for security purposes, MedStar requires that a patient's computing device accept first-party
23 | cookies in order for a patient to access the MedStar patient portal.

24 | 45. Because the Google Source Code appears on the MedStar domain, the placement of
25 | Google Analytics' cookies – and thus, the tracking of patients by Google via Google Analytics –
26 | occurs the moment that patients begin interacting with their Health Care Provider (e.g. MedStar), and
27 | it continues for almost every interaction and communication that occurs thereafter, including when a
28 | patient interacts with "authenticated" web pages, like the MedStar patient portal.

46.   Identifiers: When a patient visits a Health Care Provider web property where the Google Source Code for Google Analytics is present, that source code is designed to redirect to Google Analytics the patient's device and other identifiers.

47.   For example, when a patient interacts with MedStar's web property, including its patient portal, identifiers that are intercepted by the Google Source Code and transmitted to Google Analytics may include and are not limited to:

    a.   The patient's IP address;[11]

    b.   The patient's User-Agent;[12]

    c.   Google cookies that are disguised as first-party cookies, which include the following: _ga, _gid, and __gcl_au;

    d.   URL data parameters that include identifiers named 'cid' and 'gid,' which is the method through which Google passes the values for the _ga, _gid, and _gcl_au cookie values to itself;

    e.   Patient device identifiers; and

    f.   Patient device attributes sufficient to uniquely identify the device under a scientific principle generally known as "entropy" to data scientists.

48.   Request URL: Request URLs contain information about the substance, purport, and meaning of patients' communications with their Health Care Providers. When a patient visits a Health Care Provider web property where the Google Source Code for Google Analytics is present, that source code is designed to redirect to Google Analytics Request URL information that may include and is not limited to:

    a.   The Request URL, and portions thereof that specifically identify doctors, conditions, treatments, services, prescription drugs, payment information, health insurance information, appointment requests, and log-in/log-out

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[11] An IP address is a numerical identifier that identifies the patient's network and location to direct their communications. An IP address is considered individually identifiable as a matter of law under HIPAA and the CCPA.

[12] A User-Agent identifies details about the patient's browser. When combined with an IP address, it is additional identification data to help uniquely identify a device and the person using the device.

1   information that were the subject of communications exchanged between

2   patients and their Health Care Providers; and

3   b.   Events, such as "views, clicks, purchases."

4   49.   For example, when a patient interacts with MedStar's web property, including its

5 patient portal, Request URLs that are intercepted by the Google Source Code and transmitted to

6 Google Analytics may include and are not limited to:

7   a.   Searches for a doctor on MedStar's web property;

8   b.   Requests for an appointment on MedStar's web property;

9   c.   Search terms, results, or other communications relating to MedStar's health

10   services, including but not limited to at least 1,182 examples, e.g.:

11   https://www.medstarhealth.org/services/abdominal-aneurysm-treatment;

12   https://www.medstarhealth.org/services/blood-cancer-treatments; and

13   https://www.medstarhealth.org/services/behavioral-health-treatments;

14   d.   Patient communications to log-in or enroll in the MedStar patient portal;

15   e.   Information about communications exchanged by patients after they have

16   logged-in to the MedStar patient portal; and

17   f.   Patient communication to log-out of the MedStar patient portal.

18   50.   Examples of "Events" redirected by the Google Source Code to Google Analytics on

19 MedStar's web property may include and are not limited to:

20   a.   Page views about specific MedStar services, conditions, tests, and treatments;

21   b.   Patient portal logs-ins, enrollments, and log-outs;

22   c.   Appointment requests; and

23   d.   Search terms and results for doctors, services, conditions, tests, and treatments.

24   51.   Query String Parameters: Query String Parameters pertain to additional, unnecessary

25 information that may be included after a website's base URL and filepath.[13] The types of information

26 included are often referred to as a "field" and corresponding "value" (i.e. field=value). Query String

27 _____

[13] The additional information contained in a Query String Parameter is not necessary to the
28 functionality of any Health Care Provider's web property.

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Parameters may include and are not limited to: unique identifiers, descriptions of precise actions taken, and descriptions of the content of the page viewed.

52.   When a patient visits a Health Care Provider web property where the Google Source Code for Google Analytics is present, that source code redirects Query String Parameters to Google.

53.   For example, when a patient interacts with Gundersen's web property the Query String Parameters that are intercepted by Google Source Code and redirected to Google Analytics may include and are not limited to the following:

Field	Value and Explanation
t	Value = Event
	Explanation: The "t" field equals a value that describes a particular type of event. The "t" field and value can therefore identify a specific action being taken by a patient. For example, t=pageview, t=screenview, t=event, t=transaction, t=item.[14]
ec	Value = Event Category
	Explanation: The "ec" field is equal to a value that provides further specificity as to the "event" (e.g. action) being taken by a patient. According to Google, this field "[s]pecifies the event category. Must not be empty."[15] The "ec" field and value can therefore identify a specific action being taken by a patient. For example, ec=user_action
ea	Value = Click
	Explanation: The "ea" field is equal to a value that provides further specificity as to the "event" (e.g.. action) being taken by a patient. According to Google, this field "[s]pecifies the event action. Must not be empty."[16] The "ea" field and value can therefore identify a specific action being taken by a patient.

[14] *See* Analytics Market, *How Google Analytics Collects Data*, https://www.analyticsmarket.com/blog/how-google-analytics-collects-data/ (last visited May 16, 2023); Google Analytics, *Measurement Protocol Parameter Reference*, https://developers.google.com/analytics/devguides/collection/protocol/v1/parameters (last visited May 16, 2023).

[15] Google Analytics, *Measurement Protocol Parameter Reference*, https://developers.google.com/analytics/devguides/collection/protocol/v1/parameters (last visited May 16, 2023).

[16] Google Analytics, *Measurement Protocol Parameter Reference*, https://developers.google.com/analytics/devguides/collection/protocol/v1/parameters (last visited May 16, 2023).

	For example, ea=Clicked Request/Book Appointment/Online Button
el	Value = Event Label
	Explanation: The "el" field equals a value that provides further specificity as to the "event" (e.g. action) being taken by a patient. According to Google, this field "[s]pecifies the event label."[17] The "el" field and value can therefore identify a specific action being taken by a patient.
	For example, el=user_action.alter_view.request_appointment
dl	Value: Full URL
	Explanation: The "dl" (document location) field is equal to a value that identifies the full URL of the webpage that a patient is viewing. Google acknowledges that the "dl" field and value is "content information."[18] The "dl" field and value therefore identifies and transmits the content of the patient's current communication.
	For example, dl= https://providers.gundersenhealth.org/provider/Jason+R.+Darrah/2067523?alias_term=Cardiology&specialty_strict=Cardiology.*&sort=relevance%2Cnetworks%2Cavailability_density_best&from=search-list
dt	Value: The title of the page or document that is being viewed
	Explanation: The "dt" field (document title) equals a value that identifies the document title of the web page being viewed. Google acknowledges that the "dl" field and its value is "content information."[19] The "dt" field and value identifies and transmits the content of a patient's specific communication.
	For example, with respect to the above "dl" example, the accompanying dt field (sent in the same query string parameter) = Dr. Jason R. Darrah, MD - La Crosse, WI - Cardiology - Book Appointment
jid	Value: Allows Syncing of Information between Google Analytics, Google Ads, and Google Display Ads

[17] *See* Google Analytics, *Measurement Protocol Parameter Reference*, https://developers.google.com/analytics/devguides/collection/protocol/v1/parameters (last visited May 16, 2023).

[18] Google Analytics, Measurement Protocol Parameter Reference, https://developers.google.com/analytics/devguides/collection/protocol/v1/parameters (last visited May 16, 2023).

[19] Google Analytics, Measurement Protocol Parameter Reference, https://developers.google.com/analytics/devguides/collection/protocol/v1/parameters (last visited May 16, 2023).

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	Explanation: The "jid" field equals a numeric value that is an identifier and a Join ID. This value enables Google to match patient information that Google Analytics has obtained with information obtained through the domain Doubleclick.net (Google Display Ads).[20] Upon information and belief, it also allows Google to match patient information that Google Analytics has obtained with information obtained through the domain www.Google.com (Google Ads).
gjid	Value: Allows Syncing of Information between Google Analytics and Google Display Ads
	Explanation: The "gjid" field equals a numeric value that is an identifier and Join ID. This value enables Google to match patient information that Google Analytics has obtained with information obtained through the domains Doubleclick.net (Google Display Ads).[21]
cid	Value: Unique Patient Identifier
	Explanation: According to Google, "[t]his field … identifies a particular user, device, or browser instance. For the web, this is generally stored as a first-party cookie with a two-year expiration. For mobile apps, this is randomly generated for each particular instance of an application install. The value of this field should be a random UUID (version 4) as described in http://www.ietf.org/rfc/rfc4122.txt."[22] The corresponding value is a unique alphanumeric identifier and it contains the _ga cookie value that is disguised as a "first-party" cookie by Google.
tid	Value: Identifier for the Health Care Provider
	Explanation: Google explains that the "tid" equals an alphanumeric value that is a "tracking ID/web property ID. The format [of the value] is UA-XXXX-Y. All collected data is associated by this ID."[23]
_gid	Value: Potential Unique Patient Identifier

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[20]   Analytics Market, *How Google Analytics Collects Data*, https://www.analyticsmarket.com/blog/how-google-analytics-collects-data/ (last visited May 16, 2023) (explaining that the "jid" field provides the "Join ID for DoubleClick beacon").

[21] *Id.* (explaining that the gjid is the "tracking code version" of the "gid").

[22]   Google Analytics, *Measurement Protocol Parameter Reference*, https://developers.google.com/analytics/devguides/collection/protocol/v1/parameters (last visited May 16, 2023).

[23]   Google Analytics, *Measurement Protocol Parameter Reference*, https://developers.google.com/analytics/devguides/collection/protocol/v1/parameters (last visited May 16, 2023).

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	Explanation: The field equals a numeric value that is a unique patient identifier because it is a user ID that can be used to distinguish users.[24]
Gtm	Value: Identifier for the Health Care Provider
	Explanation: This field equals an alphanumeric value that corresponds to the advertiser's Google Tag Manager account.[25] It can therefore potentially identify the patient's Health Care Provider (e.g. where the proposed targeted advertisement may appear).

b.   Google Ads

54.   Google Ads is Google's advertising system for Google's eponymous search engine at www.Google.com.

55.   Google Ads works by collecting information, via the Google Source Code, about user searches directly at www.Google.com and their communications on advertiser or publisher websites outside of Google-owned domains, such Health Care Providers' web properties (e.g. www.gundersenhealth.org and www.medstarhealth.org).

56.   Google Ads is associated with the following domains and subdomains:

a.   www.google.com/pagead/1p-user-list;

b.   www.google.com/maps;

c.   www.google.com/ads/ga-audiences;

d.   adservice.google.com;

e.   www.google.com/ads/measurement;

f.   fcmatch.google.com;

g.   ade.googlesyndication.com;

h.   pagead2.googlesyndication.com;

i.   tpc.googlesyndication.com; and

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[24]   Analytics Market, *How Google Analytics Collects Data,* https://www.analyticsmarket.com/blog/how-google-analytics-collects-data/ (last visited May 16, 2023).

[25] Google Tag Manager is Google product that allows users to quickly and easily add, access, and change "tags," e,g. the Google Source Code, that allows the tracking of users and their activity across the Internet. *See* Google Tag Manager Help, *Tag Manager Overview*, https://support.google.com/tagmanager/answer/6102821?hl=en (last visited May 16, 2023).

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j. www.googleadservices.com

57. Upon information and belief, based on the investigation of counsel and expert analysis, Google Source Code redirects patient Health Information to Google Ads on approximately 67 percent of Health Care Provider properties in the United States.

58. When the Google Source Code for Google Ads is present on a patient's Health Care Provider's web property, the Google Source Code tracks, intercepts and collects the patient's Health Information.

59. Cookies: When the Google Source Code for Google Ads is present on a Health Care Provider's web property, the source code deposits or accesses an NID Cookie onto the patient's computing device. The NID cookie contains a device identifier that is associated with Google's Search engine, www.Google.com. That same NID cookie is also deposited when a patient interacts (either prior to or after their visit with their Health Care Provider's web property) with www.Google.com (i.e. Google Ads). Thus, the NID Cookie is lodged on both Google and non-Google web properties. By redirecting this identifier to Google.com when a patient is on a non-Google website *and* transmitting it when a patient is directly on Google.com, Google is able to use the patient's activity on non-Google websites relating to health (such as on Gundersen's web property) for purposes of behaviorally targeted advertising based on those health communications that occurs on Google's eponymous search engine. Similarly, if a patient has a Google Account, and they are signed-in to that account while browsing, the Google Source Code will track their Internet communications with a Google Account ID that is specifically connected to their Google Account – sending that information to Google.com when the patient is on a non-Google healthcare web property for the same types of usage. In this situation, the Google Source Code will send both the NID cookie and the Google Account ID to Google, creating an association between the two such that any future signed-out communication with just the NID cookie is reasonably capable of being linked back to the Google Account ID.

60. Identifiers: When the Google Source Code for Google Ads is present on a Health Care Provider's web property, the source code causes the redirection of patient identifiers to Google.

61. For example, when a patient interacts with MedStar's web property, including its

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patient portal, the Google cookies and identifiers that the Google Source Code causes to be redirected to Google Ads may include and are not limited to:

     a.   The patient's IP address;

     b.   The patient's User-Agent;

     c.   Google Analytics cookies that are disguised as first-party cookies, i.e. _ga, _gid, and __gcl_au;

     d.   Google Ads cookies, including cookies directly associated with a patient's Google Account (if they have one) and cookies directly associated with a patient's computing device (named NID cookies);

     e.   Patient device identifiers; and

     f.   Patient device attributes sufficient to uniquely identify the device under a scientific principle generally known as "entropy" to data scientists.

62.   <u>Request URL</u>: When the Google Source Code for Google Ads is present on a Health Care Provider's web property, the source code causes the redirection of Request URLs to Google, including file-path information that includes information relating to the substance, purport, or meaning of the communications patients exchange with their Health Care Provider.

63.   For example, when a patient interacts with MedStar's web property, including its patient portal, the information about the substance, purport, and meaning of patient communications with Health Care Providers that is intercepted by the Google Source Code and redirected to Google Ads may include and is not limited to:

     a.   The Request URL, and portions thereof that specifically identify doctors, conditions, treatments, services, prescription drugs, payment information, health insurance information, appointment requests, and log-in/log-out information that were the subject of communications exchanged between patients and their Health Care Providers; and

     b.   Join IDs that enable Google to join identifiers and communications content collected through Google Analytics with identifiers and communications content collected through Google Ads.

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64.   Examples of request URLs and portions thereof that are intercepted by the Google Source Code and re-redirected to Google Ads from MedStar's web property (alongside patient identifiers) may include and are not limited to:

      a.   Searches for a doctor on MedStar's web property;

      b.   Requests for an appointment on MedStar's web property;

      c.   Search terms, results, or other communications relating to MedStar health services, including but not limited to at least 1,182 examples, e.g.:

        https://www.medstarhealth.org/services/abdominal-aneurysm-treatment;

        https://www.medstarhealth.org/services/blood-cancer-treatments; and

        https://www.medstarhealth.org/services/behavioral-health-treatments;

      d.   Patient communications to log-in or enroll in the MedStar patient portal;

      e.   Information about communications exchanged by patients after they have logged-in to the MedStar patient portal; and

      f.   Patient communication to log-out of the MedStar patient portal.

65.   Query String Parameters: Examples of Query String Parameters intercepted by the Google Source Code and redirected to Google Ads include the above tid, cid, and jid fields, as well as:

FIELD	VALUE AND EXPLANATION
Eid	Value: Potential Unique Identifier
	Explanation: Upon information and belief, the "eid" field equals a numerical value that is a potential unique identifier. Plaintiffs reasonably believe 'eid' is an "Event ID" that can be used to track a specific, unique event across Google Display Ads (i.e. Doubleclick.net) and Google Ads (i.e. google.com) for events that Google tracks on non-Google properties. The same 'eid' value is re-directed to DoubleClick.com (Google Display Ads) and Google.com (Google Ads) for the same events that Google tracks on a Heath Care Provider's web property, e.g. www.gundersenhealth.org.
URL	Value: Full URL Location

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	Explanation: Upon information and belief, the URL field equals the full URL of the page that an individual is viewing. For example, URL = https://www.gundersenhealth.org/patients-visitors/mychart/
tiba	Value: Document Title
	Explanation: Upon information and belief, the "tiba" field equals the title of the page or document that is being viewed by the patient. For example, document title for the above URL example is tiba= What can I do with MyChart? - Gundersen Health System.
NID	Value: Unique Patient Identifier
	Explanation: Upon information and belief, the NID field is a Google cookie that contains a unique alphanumeric value that is associated with and redirected to Google.com (Google Ads). The alphanumeric value uniquely identifies the specific browser on the patient's specific device.
_Secure-3PSID _Secure-3PAPISID __Secure-3PSIDCC	Value: Unique Patient Identifier linked to a Google Account
	Explanation: Upon information and belief, these fields equal a unique alphanumeric value, which is logged when a Google Account Holder is signed into their account and is associated with a patient's Google Account.

c.   Google Display Ads

66.   Google Display Ads is Google's advertising system for its Display Ads network.

67.   Google Display Ads works by collecting information about user communications on non-Google websites, *e.g.*, a Health Care Provider web property, for use in serving targeted ads to users when they are on non-Google websites based on remarketing, targeting by user characteristics and interests (including the content of pages where the ads would appear).

68.   Google Display Ads is associated with the following domains, sub-folders, and sub-domains:

    a.   www.doubleclick.net;

    b.   googleads.g.doubleclick.net;

    c.   stats.g.doubleclick.net;

    d.   securepubads.g.doubleclick.net;

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1   e. bid.g.doubleclick.net; and

2   f. cm.g.doubleclick.net

3 69. Upon information and belief, based on investigation of counsel and expert analysis, Google Source Code redirects patient Health Information to Google Display Ads on approximately 65 percent (or at least 2,620) of Health Care Provider properties in the United States.

6 70. When the Google Source Code for Google Display Ads is present on a patient's Health Care Provider's web property, the source code tracks, intercepts and re-redirects patient Health Information to Google Display Ads.

9 Cookies: When the Google Source Code for Google Display Ads is present on a Health Care Provider's web property, the source code deposits the DSID and IDE Cookies onto the patient's computing device. The DSID cookie is associated with Google Display Ad (e.g., www.DoubleClick.net), and contains a value that can identify a patient's Google Account (if they have one). The IDE cookie is also associated with Google Display Ad (e.g. www.DoubleClick.net), and it contains a value that can identify the patient's device; specifically, the specific browser on the patient's specific device. Thus, the DSID and IDE cookies can be used to uniquely identify and track individuals as they navigate the Internet, including as they communicate with their Health Care Providers' web properties. Similar to Google Ads, Google associates the DSID and IDE cookies for specific patients and their devices to each other by acquiring them at the same time when a person is logged-in to their Google Account. Thereafter, Google's acquisition of either cookie by itself is sufficient for Google to associate the event acquired with the other cookie.

21 71. Identifiers: When the Google Source Code for Google Display Ads is present on a Health Care Provider's web property, the source code redirects identifiers to Google.

23 72. For example, when a patient interacts with MedStar's web property, including its patient portal, the Google Cookies and identifiers that the Google Source Code causes to be redirected to the Google Display Ads may include and are not limited to:

26   a. The patient's IP address;

27   b. The patient's User-Agent;

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c.   Google Analytics cookies that are disguised as first-party cookies, i.e., _ga, _gid, and _gcl_au;

d.   Google Display Ads cookies, including cookies directly associated with a patient's Google Account (named DSID, if they have a Google Account) and cookies directly associated with a patient's computing device (named IDE cookies);

e.   Patient device identifiers; and

f.   Patient device attributes sufficient to uniquely identify the device under a scientific principle generally known as "entropy" to data scientists.

73.   Request URL: When the Google Source Code for Google Display Ads is present on a Health Care Provider's web property, the source code redirects Request URLs to Google. For example, when a patient interacts with MedStar's web property, including its patient portal, the information about the substance, purport, and meaning of patient communications with Health Care Providers that is intercepted by the Google Source Code and redirected to Google Display Ads may include and is not limited to:

a.   The Request URL, and portions thereof that specifically identifies doctors, conditions, treatments, services, prescription drugs, payment information, health insurance information, appointment requests, and log-in/log-out information that were the subject of communications exchanged between a patient and their Health Care Providers; and

b.   Join IDs that enable Google to join identifiers and communications content collected through Google Analytics with identifiers and communications content collected through Google Ads.

74.   Examples of request URLs and portions thereof that are intercepted by the Google Source Code and redirected to Google Display Ads from the MedStar web property (alongside patient identifiers) may include and are not limited to:

a.   Searches for a doctor on MedStar's web property;

b.   Requests for an appointment on MedStar's web property;

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c.   Search terms, results, or other communication relating to MedStar's services, conditions, tests, and treatments including but not limited at least 1,182 examples, *e.g.*:

https://www.medstarhealth.org/services/abdominal-aneurysm-treatment;

https://www.medstarhealth.org/services/blood-cancer-treatments; and

https://www.medstarhealth.org/services/behavioral-health-treatments;

d.   Patient communications to log-in or enroll in the MedStar patient portal;

e.   Information about every communication exchanged by patients after they have logged-in to the MedStar patient portal; and,

f.   Patient communication to log-out of the MedStar patient portal.

75.   Query String Parameters: When the Google Source Code for Google Display Ads is present on a Health Care Provider's web property, the source code redirects Query String Parameters to Google. Examples of Query String Parameters intercepted by the Google Source Code and redirected to Google Display Ads may include and are not limited to: the tid, cid, jid, gjid, _gid, eid, URL, tiba fields and values (described above), as well as:

FIELD	VALUE AND EXPLANATION
auid	Value: Potential Unique Identifier
	Explanation: Upon information and belief, this field is equal to a value that is identical to the _gcl_au cookie (which Google disguises as a first-party cookie on the MedStar's web property), and overlaps substantially with the _ga cookie that Google also disguises as a first-party cookie on Health Care Providers' web properties, e.g. the Gundersen web property. Upon information and belief, this identifier ties a patient's identifiers together for Google across Google Analytics and Google Display Ads.
IDE	Value: Unique Patient Identifier
	Explanation: As explained above, the IDE field equals an alphanumeric value that is the same as the IDE cookie (which is a Google cookie that re-directs to www.Doubleclick.net). The IDE cookie value allows tracking of a user for advertising purposes by Google. Upon information and belief, by transmitting the IDE field together with the auid cookie, Google is effectively linking these identifiers to cross-identify patient's browsing histories.

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DSID	Value: Unique Patient Identifier
	Explanation: As explained above, the DSID field equals an alphanumeric value that is the same as the DSID cookie (which is a Google cookie that re-directs to www.Doubleclick.net). Upon information and belief, the IDE cookie value allows tracking of a user for advertising purposes by Google.

2.   Google's Offline Acquisition of Health Information

76.   In addition to unlawfully acquiring Health Information via the Google Source Code, Google's interception of Health Information also occurs from "offline" sources.

77.   For example, in conjunction with its advertising systems, Google offers a program called Customer Match.

78.   As described by Google, "Customer Match lets [advertisers] use [their] online and offline data to reach and re-engage with [their] customers across [Google] Search, the Shopping tab, Gmail, YouTube, and Display. Using information that [advertisers'] customers have shared with [them], Customer Match will target ads to those customers and other customers like them."[26]

79.   Google provides the following explanation as to how Customer Match works:[27]

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[26]   Google Ads Help, *About Customer Match*, https://support.google.com/google-ads/answer/6379332?hl=en (last visited May 16, 2023).

[27]   Google Ads Help, *About Customer Match*, https://support.google.com/google-ads/answer/6379332?hl=en (last visited May 16, 2023).

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80.   In other words, Google's Customer Match program allows its advertisers, like Health Care Providers, to *match* their audiences', *e.g.*, patients', *online and offline* information – including matching online and offline patient Health Information.

81.   The offline Health Information is uploaded and provided to Google.[28]

82.   The matching is done by Google. Google explains that once it is in possession of the offline data, it matches that offline data to existing Google Accounts, and will use the Customer Match data to create Customer Match Audiences, i.e. a Customer Match list for purposes of targeted advertising through Google's advertising systems.[29]

83.   This is all done for the purpose of targeted advertising through Google's advertising systems.[30]

84.   Google is, therefore, not only unlawfully acquiring Health Information via the Google Source Code, but also unlawfully acquiring it via offline resources.

C.   How Google Monetizes the Health Information

85.   After tracking, intercepting and acquiring patients' Health Information, Google uses the information for personalized advertising in its advertising systems, which includes but is not limited to Google Analytics, Google Ads, and Google Display Ads.

86.   Because Google Analytics, Google Ads, and Google Display Ads are advertising products, Google's acquisition of Health Information through and use of Health Information within the products constitutes advertising use of Health Information, regardless of whether it is later used

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[28] Google Ads Help, *About Customer Match*, https://support.google.com/google-ads/answer/6379332?hl=en (last visited May 16, 2023).

[29] Google Ads Help, *How Google Uses Customer Match Data*, https://support.google.com/google-ads/answer/6334160 (last visited May 16, 2023) ("The customer data files you upload will only be used to match your customers to Google accounts[.]") (underlined in original indicating hyperlink). It bears noting that while Google's explanation of *How Google Uses Customer Match Data* contains many references to Google's commitment to privacy and adherence to its own policies, the fact remains that the very purpose of Customer Match is for Google to connect online and offline information for the purposes of digital advertising through its own advertising systems.

[30] Google Ads Help, *Create a Customer List*, https://support.google.com/google-ads/answer/6276125?hl=en (last visited May 16, 2023) (explaining that Customer Match lets you target ads to your customers, where offline information is uploaded to Google to be incorporated into an ad campaign).

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1 to serve an advertisement to a patient or not.

2   **1.   Google's Monetization of Health Information for Remarketing Across**

3   **Google's Marketing Channels**

4   87.   Remarketing (also referred to as retargeting) is the practice of targeting specific ads to

5 people based on actions they have taken on an advertisers' website.

6   88.   Positive remarketing occurs when Google targets patients based on specific actions or

7 communications exchanged online or offline with a Health Care Provider. For example, a positive

8 retargeting campaign may target ads about cancer treatment to people who: (1) have logged-in to their

9 patient portal; and (2) exchanged communications with the hospital about cancer. This subsequent

10 ad, based on prior actions and communications, is remarketing or retargeting.

11   89.   Negative remarketing occurs when Google decides specifically not to target

12 advertisements to specific persons based on their actions or communications exchanged online or

13 offline with a Health Care Provider. For example, a negative retargeting campaign may decide that

14 an ad seeking new patients should not be shown to anyone who has previously logged-in to a Health

15 Care Provider's patient portal. In this example, Google would identify patients who fit that description

16 as they use Google.com or other web properties and avoid showing the patient acquisition ad from

17 their Health Care Provider to that patient.

18   90.   Google uses Health Information for purposes of remarketing on Google Search,

19 www.Google.com.

20   91.   For example, when, at any point after visiting their Health Care Provider's web

21 property, the patient later visits www.Google.com to conduct a search, Google uses the previously

22 intercepted Health Information to influence the patient's search results through targeted remarketing

23 or retargeting campaigns.

24   92.   Specifically, Google Ads has a program called Remarketing Lists for Search Ads

25 (RLSA), which enables advertisers to "customize" Search Ads campaigns "for people who have

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previously visited [the advertisers'] site, and tailor … bids and ads to these visitors when they're searching on Google and search partner sites."[31]

93.   Google explains how it works:[32]

> **How it works**
>
> You can create audience segments to target with your Search ads that include people who have left your website without buying anything. Your Search ads will then help you connect with these potential customers when they continue looking for what they need using Google Search. Set your bids, create ads, or select keywords keeping in mind that these potential customers have previously visited your website.
>
> There are two basic strategies for using your data segments with Search ads:
>
> • You can optimize bids for your existing keywords for your website visitors and app users. For example, you can increase your bid by 25% for those who previously visited your website in the last 30 days. Or, you could show a different ad to site visitors who have placed items in a shopping cart but have not purchased them.
>
> • You can bid on keywords that you don't normally bid on just for people who have recently visited your site, or have converted on your site in the past. This can help you increase your sales. For example, you could bid on more broad keywords only for people who have previously purchased from your site.
>
> **Keep in mind**: The membership limit for these lists is capped at 540 days. Learn more About your data segments.

94.   Google then provides an example:

> **Example**
>
> People looking for running shoes visit a sports apparel website to check out the available styles, and look at the shoe section of the site. The site could add these shoppers to a "Shoe category" list. Then, for example, the site could bid more for these visitors next time they search for running shoes on Google.

95.   On a page titled "About your data segments," Google explains to advertisers how they can use their "data to re-engage people who have previously interacted" with their "brand or services on mobile or desktop" so that their "ads are shown to people in this segment as they browse Google or partner websites."[33]

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[31] Google Ads Help, *About Your Data Segments for Search Ads*, https://support.google.com/google-ads/answer/2701222 (last visited May 16, 2023).

[32] *Id.*

[33] Google Ads Help, About your data segments, https://support.google.com/google-ads/answer/2453998?hl=en (last visited May 16, 2023).

96. Google explains how advertisers can "Tag your website using Google Ads."[34] This page explains that doing so "helps [the advertiser] reach people who have visited [their] website or who have used [their] app." Google also explains that "[t]he Google tag is a web tagging library for Google's site measurement, conversion tracking, and products using your data segments. It's a block of code that adds your website visitors to your data segments, allowing you to target your ads to these visitors. For dynamic remarketing, you'll also use event snippets, which passes specific data to Google Ads about your website visitor and the actions that they take on your site."

97. Google allows Health Care Providers to engage in Remarketing Lists for Search Ads and, in such cases, rather than bidding more for people searching for running shoes on Google, the Health Care Providers are encouraged to bid more for patients.

98. Google also enables Health Care Providers to engage in "negative remarketing," a process through which, rather than target people who took a specific action, the advertiser chooses to identify and exclude them from ads.[35] For example, if a hospital were running an advertising campaign attempting to convert existing patients into purchasers of specific additional health care services, the hospital would engage in a positive remarketing campaign towards known patients who exchanged communications about specific topics. However, if a hospital were running an advertising campaign for the purpose of obtaining new patients, it may choose to engage in negative remarketing or retargeting by telling Google to identify and exclude existing patients from that advertising campaign.

99. In addition to using Health Information to enable Health Care Providers to engage in remarketing at www.Google.com (Google Ads), Google also uses Health Information to enable remarketing on Google Analytics, Google Display Ad Network and YouTube.[36]

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[34] *See* https://support.google.com/google-ads/answer/2476688 (last visited May 16, 2023).

[35] Google Search Ads 360 Help, *Prevent Ads from Displaying to Members of Google Ads Remarketing Lists: Create a Negative Remarketing Target,* https://support.google.com/searchads/answer/6108309?hl=en (last visited May 16, 2023).

[36] *See* Google Search Ads 360 Help, *Set Up Remarketing Lists for Display Ads,* https://support.google.com/searchads/answer/7201620?hl=en (last visited May 16, 2023). Google Ads Help, *Use Your Data Segments to Advertise on YouTube,* https://support.google.com/google-ads/answer/7181409?hl=en (last visited May 16, 2023).

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100. For example, if a pharmaceutical company wants to target ads to patients who have previously exchanged communications about the company's prescription drugs, it may create a remarketing campaign that runs across Google Ads, Google Analytics, Google Display Ads, and YouTube.

101. Thus, a patient who searched for a diabetes medication may start seeing advertisements for diabetes medications across their different devices and across Google.com, YouTube, YouTube TV, and non-Google websites.

102. Google, therefore, acknowledges that it uses Health Information for purposes of targeted advertising on Google Websites.

2.   Google's Use of Health Information for Targeted Ads on Non-Google Websites and Apps

103. In addition to remarketing campaigns, Google enables advertisers to target ads based on user interests via "placements," "keywords," and "contextual targeting" on Non-Google Websites and Apps.

104. "Placements" help an advertiser "determine the exact URLs" where their ads appear.[37] For example, an advertiser that identifies a URL where ad space is available on a property related to a Health Care Provider can chose to target ads to that specific URL.[38]

105. In the examples below, Google served targeted "placement" ads on the Mayo Clinic web property.

106. In the first example, a pharmaceutical company has placed an ad on the Mayo Clinic "Breast Cancer" page for its "Kisquali" drug to treat "Metastatic Breast Cancer."

Google Analytics, *Remarketing Lists for Search Ads with* Analytics, https://support.google.com/analytics/answer/6212951?hl=en (last visited May 16, 2023).

[37] Google Ads Help, *How Placements and Keywords Work Together*, https://support.google.com/google-ads/answer/2580292?hl=en-GB (last visited May 16, 2023).

[38] *Id.*

A substantially similar process appears on the "Bladder Cancer" page:
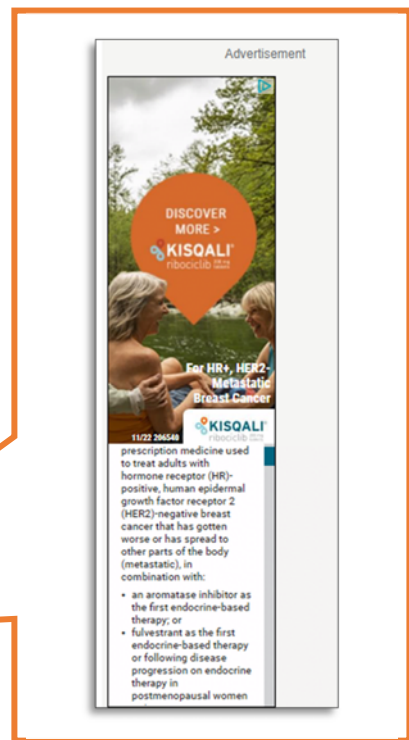
107.   "Keywords" are lists of words that "determine the pages" where an advertiser's "ad can be shown, specifically the subject or content of the page."[39] "For example, if [an advertiser] wanted [its] ad to appear near content that refers to tennis, [the advertiser] could try starting with keywords related to tennis."[40] Similar to "Placements" above, advertisers can use keywords to target users with specific health interests.

108.   "Contextual Targeting" is a feature that Google provides to advertisers wherein advertisers can "match[] ads to relevant sites in [Google's] Display [Ads] Network using keywords or topics, among other factors."[41] Google explains how its Contextual Targeting works:

> Google's system analyzes the content of each webpage to determine its central theme, which is then matched to [the advertiser's] ad using [the advertiser's] keywords or topic selections, [] language and location targeting, a visitor's recent browsing history, and other factors.[42]

109.   Thus, in each of these three scenarios, Google admits that it uses Health Information for purposes of targeted advertising on Non-Google Websites.

D.   The Scope and Scale Of Google's Tracking and Acquisition of Health Information

1.   Google Source Code Is Present on 94 Percent of Health Care Provider Properties

110.   Upon information and belief, based on investigation by counsel, an analysis of 3,985 Health Care Providers web properties reveals that Google Source Code is present on, and thus Google is unlawfully tracking and acquiring patient Health Information from, 3,751 (or 94%) of the Health Care Provider web properties examined. This includes:

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[39]   Google Ads Help, *How Placements and Keywords Work Together*, *https://support.google.com/google-ads/answer/2580292?hl=en-GB* (last visited May 16, 2023).

[39]   Google, *Analytics*, https://marketingplatform.google.com/about/analytics/ (last visited May 16, 2023).

[40] *Id.*

[41]   Google Ads Help, *Contextual Targeting*, https://support.google.com/google-ads/answer/1726458?hl=en (last visited May 16, 2023).

[42] *Id.*

1   a.   2,989 Health Care Provider web properties or 75% for Google Analytics;

2   b.   2,699 Health Care Provider web properties or 67% for Google Ads; and

3   c.   2,620 Health Care Provider web properties or 65% for Google Display Ads.

4   **2.   Google Connects Health Information Across Its Advertising Systems,**

5   **Google Products and Google Properties**

6   111.   Google can amplify the Health Information that it collects in any one of its advertising

7   systems and products by correlating and aggregating the totality of all the Health Information

8   acquired. In this respect, Google is able to compile comprehensive and detailed Health Information

9   profiles about individuals, and leverage these profiles in its advertising systems to make those systems

10 more attractive to advertisers.

11   112.   Google has integrated its advertising systems, including the at-issue advertising

12 systems, to work together and share data across those systems. Thus, information Google collects

13 through Google Analytics is also redirected and shared by Google across Google Ads, Google

14 Display Ads, and YouTube, among other Google systems and products.

15   113.   The result is an endless and pervasive process of collection and data association with

16 individuals, including their Health Information, which enables Google to obtain unmatched insight

17 into individual's preferences, browsing history, and, as relevant here, their detailed health care

18 communications.

19   114.   For example, and as explained further below, the Health Information that Google

20 acquires and collects through Google Display Ads is also integrated into targeted ads served on

21 YouTube. Google explains that it "has two propert[ies] where display ads are eligible to appear: The

22 Google Display Network and YouTube."[43]

23   115.   In addition, Google maintains "developer" pages that explain how its different

24 advertising systems work together and are intertwined.

25   116.   For example, the developer pages for Google Analytics explain that Health Care

26 Providers may link Google Analytics data to at least ten other Google advertising products through

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[43] Google Ads Help, *Google Display Network and YouTube on computers, mobile devices, and*
28 *tablets*, https://support.google.com/google-ads/answer/2740623?hl=en (last visited May 16, 2023).

which Google collects information about consumers, which, in the case of Health Care Providers, are patients.[44] These advertising products to which Google Analytics may be linked include: Google Ads, Google AdSense, Google Ad Exchange, BigQuery, Display & Video 360, Campaign Manager 360, Search Ads 360, Postbacks, and Search Console.[45]

117.   For each of the products, Google provides specific instructions to developers as to how to link to Google's advertising systems. For example, as set forth below, Google provides specific instructions to link Google Analytics with Google Ads, Display & Video 360, and Search Ads 360.

118.   Google provides the following instructions to link Google Analytics with Google Ads:
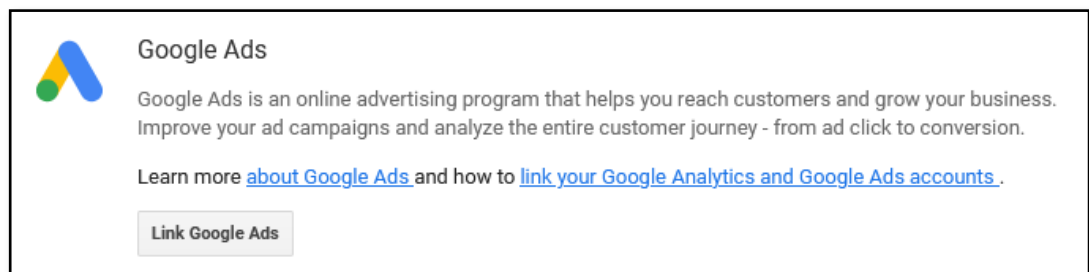
119.   When a developer clicks "Link Google Ads," Google informs them that:
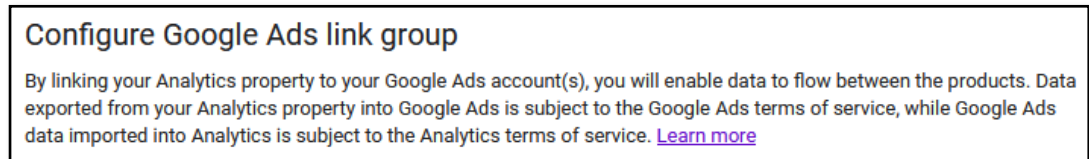
120.   When a developer clicks "Learn more," Google sends them to a page title "Link/unlink Google Ads and Analytics," where Google explains:

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[44]   Google   Marketing   Platform,   *Google   Analytics*, https://marketingplatform.google.com/about/analytics/ (under the sub-heading *Designed to work together*, Google explains that advertisers should "use Analytics with other Google solutions to get a complete understanding of [their] marketing efforts and enhance performance") (last visited May 16, 2023).

[45]   *Id.; see also* Google   Marketing   Platform,   *Google   Analytics   –   Integrations*, https://marketingplatform.google.com/about/analytics-360/features/#integrations (last visited May 16, 2023).

CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT

Link/unlink Google Ads and Analytics

Linking your Google Ads account to your Analytics property lets you see the full customer cycle, from how users interact with your marketing (e.g., seeing ad impressions, clicking ads) to how they finally complete the goals you've set for them on your site (e.g., making purchases, consuming content).

121.   Google provides the following instructions to link Google Analytics with Display & Video 360:

Display & Video 360

Display & Video 360 is Google's cross-exchange real-time-bidding buying solution for large customers. The integration provides users with the ability to create remarketing audiences from within a Google Analytics 360 account and then share the audiences with a Display & Video 360 account for targeting.

Learn more about the Display & Video 360 and contact your customer service rep to adjust your Display & Video 360 and Analytics account link.

122.   Google provides the following instructions to link Google Analytics with Google Search Ads 360 with Google Analytics:

Search Ads 360

Search Ads 360 is a search management platform that helps agencies and marketers efficiently manage some of the largest marketing campaigns in the world across multiple engines and media channels. Integrating with your GA account allows you to see Analytics site engagement stats in Search Ads 360.

Learn more about the Search Ads 360 and contact your customer service rep to adjust your Search Ads 360 and Analytics account link.

123.   Further, the developer pages clearly state that the connections between Google Analytics, Google Ads, and Google Display Ads enables remarketing features:

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124.   The hyperlink to <u>Display and Search Remarketing</u> (depicted in the above screenshot) takes the developer to a page titled *About remarketing audiences in Analytics*, which explains remarketing:[46]

125.   This *About remarketing audiences in Analytics* further describes how Google can use "Identifying behavior" for the remarketing:[47]

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[46] Google Analytics Help, *About remarketing audiences in Analytics,* https://support.google.com/analytics/answer/2611268?hl=en&utm_id=ad#zippy=%2Cin-this-article (last visited May 16, 2023).

[47] *Id.*

CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT

Identifying behavior

You can use broad behavioral criteria like having simply initiated a session on your site or opened your app, or you can use more narrow criteria like interacting with specific products.

For example, you might create each of the following remarketing audiences and engage the users in them with the following kinds of ads.

Audience criteria	Ad type
Users who viewed product-detail pages, but didn't add those items to their carts	Ads for the items they didn't add to their carts
Users who added items to their carts, but didn't complete their purchases	Ads with a discount code for the items in their carts
Users who purchased items X and Y	Ads for related item Z

When a user's behavior meets the criteria you've specified, the associated cookie or Device Advertising ID is included in the audience. When any of the users with those cookies or IDs later visit sites on the Google Display Network or use Google Search, they are eligible to see one of your remarketing ads if you win the ad auction.

As you get comfortable with remarketing, you can tailor your creatives and apply remarketing best practices ☑ .

126.   For Google Ads, Google's developer page explains that the information collected in Google Ads can be used in connection with information obtained through Google Analytics:[48]

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[48] *Id.*

CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT

Google Ads remarketing tags vs. Analytics tracking code and Data Import

The Google Ads remarketing tag and the Analytics tracking code require different implementation efforts, and they each collect different data. Analytics also offers Data Import, which lets you import a wide variety of additional data beyond what you collect with the tracking code.

In Google Ads, you build remarketing lists from the data collected by the remarketing tag. In Analytics, you build remarketing audiences from any of the data you have in Analytics. You can combine the two in a Google Ads account linked to an Analytics account.

Google Ads	Analytics
Websites: You generate an additional remarketing tag for websites, and then add the additional tag to your web pages. Apps: You generate a remarketing ID for apps, and then add the ID to your app. Learn more	Websites: You use the existing Analytics tracking code, and enable remarketing from your Analytics property settings. Apps: You modify the tracking code that you have included in your app. Learn more
You can create remarketing lists based on the following rules: Websites: • Visitors of a page • Visitors of a page who did not visit another page • Visitors of a page who also visited another page • Visitors of a page during specific dates • Visitors of a page with a specific tag Apps: • All users of an app • People who did/didn't use an app recently • People using specific versions of an app • People who took specific actions within an app	You can create remarketing audiences based on any of your Analytics data, including: • All default Analytics data • Data imported from linked Google Ads accounts • Data imported from linked Google Marketing Platform accounts • Data imported via Data Import (e.g., CRM data, product meta data, custom data)
Remarketing lists are native to Google Ads.	Remarketing audiences are native to Analytics, and are shared with the linked Google Ads accounts identified in audience settings.
Google Ads tags set the advertising cookies. For example, a user without an advertising cookie comes to a site that has the Google Ads remarketing tag, the advertising cookie is set, and the user is added to the remarketing list.	Analytics tracking code tags read the advertising cookies. For example, a user without an advertising cookie comes to a site that has the Analytics remarketing-enabled tracking code, the advertising cookie is not set, and the user is not added to list.
You can use remarketing lists in Display and Search.	You can use remarketing audiences in Display and Search.

CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT

127.   Google expressly acknowledges that Google Analytics can be used to facilitate remarketing on Google's search website, www.Google.com.[49]

Remarketing Lists for Search Ads with Analytics

You can create remarketing audiences using the Analytics tag, which offers sophisticated list-building capabilities. You can use these audiences with Google Ads display remarketing campaigns on the Google Display Network, or with your Google Ads search ads campaigns, to customize the campaign for people who have previously visited your site. In addition, Analytics offers detailed user analytics which can also help you decide how to create your remarketing lists.

In order to use your Analytics tag to create remarketing lists for search ads, you must enable data collection for Remarketing features in your property settings. Once you have created the remarketing lists, you can associate these lists with your search ad groups.

How it works

Remarketing lists for search ads (RLSA) with Analytics works much the same way as standard RLSA: you use Analytics to help define the criteria for adding customers to remarketing lists; Google associates sessions on your site (based on your Analytics criteria) with one of Google's advertising cookies on users' browsers; and when your customers later search on Google.com (from the same browser), they may see customized ads based on their previous sessions on your site.

Keep in mind:

• The maximum lifespan of a remarketing list for Google search ads is 540 days.

• A remarketing list for Google search ads must have at least 1,000 cookies before it can be used to tailor your search ads. This helps protect the privacy of those who make up your list.

• Remarketing lists that include the Google Display Network demographics dimensions Age, Gender, Interests are not eligible for RLSA.

• Remarketing lists that you create in mobile-app views are not eligible for RLSA.

Next steps

• Enable data collection for Remarketing features in your Analytics property settings.
• Create Remarketing Audiences in Analytics.
• Set up remarketing lists for search ads in Google Ads.

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[49]   Google   Analytics   Help,   *Remarketing   Lists   for   search   Ads   with   Analytics*, https://support.google.com/analytics/answer/6212951?hl=en (last visited May 16, 2023).

CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT

3.   Google's Tracking and Collection of Health Information Through the At-Issue Advertising Systems Are Connected Across Patient Devices

128.   In addition to connecting Health Information across its advertising systems (see above), Google also connects the Health Information it obtains about patients across their different devices, browsers, and apps.

129.   Specifically, if a patient owns two computing devices (e.g., a laptop and a cell phone), Google will merge, join, and co-mingle the Health Information, as well as other information it has about the patient from one device to the other. Similarly, if a patient exchanges a communication with their Health Care Provider through a web browser and then later exchanges a communication through the Health Care Provider's app, Google can and does associate the different Health Information collected from these two different sources. Moreover, if a patient has multiple Health Care Providers from whose properties Google collects Health Information, then Google can and does collect and connect the Health Information for that patient across the different Health Care Providers.

130.   In each instance, Google is able to broaden its insight into the patient's Health Information and communications, more so than any single Health Care Provider.

131.   Google's cross-device connections occur, in part, through an advertising program called Google Signals, which is specifically intended for advertisers to "better understand [their] customers across devices using Google's signed-in data:

132.   When a developer clicks "Continue," Google sends them to a page to "Activate Google signals," which explains:

Activate Google signals

Advertising Features are being enhanced to help you better understand your customers across devices using Google's signed-in data. This new setting upgrades your existing Advertising Features controls and enables:

New Cross Device capabilities ⑦	More insights using Google data ⑦	All existing Advertising Features ⑦

When you choose to activate Google Signals, Google Analytics will associate the visitation information it collects from your site and/or apps with Google information from accounts of signed-in users who have consented to this association for the purpose of ads personalization. This Google information may include end user location, search history, YouTube history, and data from sites that partner with Google—and is used to provide aggregated and anonymized insights into your users' cross device behaviors. By enabling these features, you acknowledge you have the necessary privacy disclosures and rights from your end users for such association, and that such data may be accessed and/or deleted by end users via My Activity. These features are also subject to the Google Analytics Advertising Features policies.

Activate for all properties ▼ in this account.

REVIEW YOUR DATA SHARING SETTINGS

You **have not** enabled data sharing to help improve Google's products and services. The data sharing setting will also apply to authenticated visitation data collected by Google signals which is associated with Google user accounts. You acknowledge that you have the necessary rights from your end users, including disclosures in your privacy policy to share this data with Google. Enhanced Demographics and Interests Reporting is available only if you have enabled data sharing with Google. Click here to review your data sharing settings.

ACTIVATE   DECIDE LATER

133.   A separate developer page provides additional details:

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Introduction

When you activate Google signals, these existing Google Analytics features are updated to also include aggregated data from Google users who have consented to Ads Personalization:

Existing Google Analytics feature	With Google signals activated
Remarketing with Google Analytics Create remarketing audiences from your Google Analytics data, and share those audiences with your linked advertising accounts.	Audiences that you create in Google Analytics and publish to Google Ads and other Google Marketing Platform advertising products can serve ads in Cross Device-eligible remarketing campaigns to Google users who have consented to Ads Personalization. Note: You need to activate Google signals in order to populate audiences that you export to YouTube. Analytics creates separate custom models for ecommerce transactions and goal completions on your site based on the cross-device conversion data from users who have signed in to their Google accounts and who have consented to Ads Personalization. Learn more about cross-device conversion exports
Advertising Reporting Features Google Analytics collects information per your measurement-code configuration, as well as Google advertising cookies that are present.	Google Analytics collects additional information about users who have consented to Ads Personalization. Learn more
Demographics and Interests reports Google Analytics collects additional information from the DoubleClick cookie (web activity) and from Device Advertising IDs	Google Analytics collects additional information about users who have consented to Ads Personalization. Learn more NOTE: If you deactivate Google signals, Analytics stops collecting this additional information. If you deactivate and then reactivate Google signals, you will have no demographic or interests information for the period during which Google signals was deactivated.
Cross Device reports (in beta) Connect data about devices and activities from different sessions so you can get an understanding of user behavior at each step of the conversion process, from initial contact to long-term retention.	Based on aggregated data from users who have consented to Ads Personalization, Google Analytics models behavior for your whole user base across device types. The data is user based rather than session based. This behavior modeling does not require User-ID views.

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E. **Google Is Reasonably Capable of Associating the Collected Health Information to Individual Patient Identifiers**

134. Google is reasonably capable of associating the information it acquires from Health Care Providers with specific patients and their devices.

135. The Health Information that Google unlawfully obtains is:

a. individually identifiable health information as a matter of law under HIPAA. 45 C.F.R. § 164.514;

b. "personal information" as a matter of law under the CCPA, Cal. Civ. Code §§ 1798.140(o), (p), (x);

c. "Personal information" as a matter of contract under Google's Terms of Use and Privacy Policy, which defines "personal information" as someone's "name, email address, or billing information, or other data that can be reasonably linked to such information by Google, such as information we associated with your Google Account."

136. Google ties the Health Information together and is reasonably capable of tying all of it together through Join IDs and identifiers that it collects across different services. These Join IDs and identifiers are tied directly to a patient's device identifiers, geo-location, IP address, User-Agent information, and device properties that, when combined, are sufficiently unique to identify a patient, and, when they are a Google Account Holder, their specific Google Account.

137. For example, if a Google Account Holder is signed-in to their Google Account, Google acquires all of the identifiable information listed below at the same time for each service or domain listed, thereby enabling Google to link each of these identifiers with each other and also directly with: (1) the patient's Google Account; and (2) with any other device or information that Google has already associated with that patient:

Patient Information	Google Analytics	Google Ads	Google Display Ads
Google Account	✓	✓	✓
_ga cookie / cid	✓	✓	✓
_gid cookie / _gid	✓	✓	✓
Event Join IDs	✓	✓	✓
NID cookie		✓	

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IDE cookie			✓
Device ID	✓	✓	✓
IP address	✓	✓	✓
User Agent	✓	✓	✓
Device Properties	✓	✓	✓
Content	✓	✓	✓

138.   For signed-out Google Account Holders and Non-Google Account Holders, the only difference in the identifier collected across the different services is the name of the cookie associated with a signed-out/Non-Google Account Holders' device.

139.   For Google Ads, the signed-out browser identifier is the NID cookie, which is:

a.   Used to show Google ads in Google services for signed-out users;

b.   Used to acquire information about patient activity on Health Care Provider and covered entity digital properties;

c.   Uniquely identifying of a patient's device and browser;

d.   Acquired by Google when a user is signed-in to a Google Account *and* when they are not signed-in to a Google Account; and

e.   A value for which Google is reasonably capable of associating with a patient's Google Account and their Health Information.

140.   For Google Display Ads, the signed-out browser identifier is the IDE cookie, which is:

a.   Used to show Google ads on non-Google sites;

b.   Used to acquire information about patient activity on Health Care Provider and covered entity digital properties;

c.   Uniquely identifying of a patient's device and browser;

d.   Acquired by Google when a user is signed-in to a Google Account *and* when they are not signed-in to a Google Account; and

e.   A value for which Google is reasonably capable of associating with a patient's Google Account and their Health Information.

141.   As a result of Google acquiring the Google Account cookies and the signed-out browser identifier cookies at the same time, Google is able to easily correlate the signed-out browser

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1   identifying cookies for Google Analytics, Google Ads, and Google Display Ads (among other

2   products) with specific Google Account Holders any time that Google collects the signed-out browser

3   identifying cookie – and then also with any other information that Google has collected about the

4   Account holder through any other Google consumer or business service.

5   142.   As a result of acquiring Google Account identifiers alongside each of these other

6   identifiers or identifying properties, Google is reasonably capable of associating each of the other

7   identifiers or identifying properties with specific patients by their Google Account.

8   143.   For example, if on Monday, Google acquires Patient Jane Doe's Google Account ID

9   alongside all of the other identifiers in the chart above, Google is reasonably capable of linking all of

10 the other identifiers in the chart to Jane Doe's Google Account ID. Then, if Jane Doe exchanges

11 communications with her Health Care Provider using the same device on Tuesday, Google will be

12 reasonably capable of associating Jane Doe's activity on Tuesday with her activity on Monday,

13 regardless of whether Google acquires Jane Doe's Google Account ID directly with the activity on

14 Tuesday.

15   **F.   Google Is Readily Capable Of Identifying the Health Care Providers From**

16   **Which It Unlawfully Acquired Health Information**

17   144.   Google is readily capable of identifying the Health Care Providers from whom it

18 unlawfully acquired Health Information.

19   145.   Google can readily identify the web properties which use the Google Source Code.

20   146.   In addition, for those web properties that use the Google Source Code, Google has

21 tools that it uses in the ordinary course of its business that it can easily use to identify the web

22 properties that are Health Care Providers (as defined herein). This includes using (1) its search index

23 spider to identify health care properties with key terms required by law and (2) content categorizations

24 that Google has publicly stated it has applied to web properties. Plaintiffs address each in turn.

25   147.   Federal law requires every health care provider or covered entity under HIPAA to

26 "prominently post its [HIPAA] notice on the website and make the notice electronically available

27 through the website." 45 C.F.R. § 164.520(c)(3).

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148.   Federal law further specifies that each HIPAA notice is required to include the phrase,

> "THIS NOTICE DESCRIBES HOW MEDICAL INFORMATION ABOUT YOU MAY BE USED AND DISCLOSED AND HOW YOU CAN GET ACCESS TO THAT INFORMATION."

45 C.F.R. § 164.520(b)(i).

149.   Google publicly explains that "most of [its] Search index is built through the work of software known as crawlers [that] automatically visit publicly accessible webpages and follow links on those pages.[50] Google further explains that when its crawlers review a webpage Google's "systems render the content of the page, just as a browser does" and Google then "take[s] note of key signals," including "keywords" about the page.[51] "The Google Search index contains hundreds of billions of webpages and is well over 100,000,000 gigabytes in size. It's like the index in the back of a book – with an entry for every word on every webpage we index."[52]

150.   Google describes the crawling process in further detail and what happens next:[53]

> After a page is crawled, Google tries to understand what the page is about. This stage is called indexing and it includes processing and analyzing the textual content and key content tags and attributes, such as <title> elements and alt attributes, images, videos, and more.

151.   Therefore, Google can readily identify all or substantially all Health Care Providers from which it is acquiring Health Information by using the Google crawlers to identify and index all properties that include a HIPAA notice.

152.   Similarly, to identify pharmaceutical companies subject to medical privacy laws, Google can use its crawlers to identify properties that have pharmaceutical warnings required by the FDA to market prescription drugs.

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[50]   Google Search, *How Google Search Organizes Information*, https://www.google.com/search/howsearchworks/how-search-works/organizing-information/ (last visited May 16, 2023).

[51] *Id.*

[52] *Id.*

[53]   Google Search Central, *In-depth Guide to How Google Search Works*, https://developers.google.com/search/docs/fundamentals/how-search-works (last visited May 16, 2023).

153.   The regulation on Medication Guides for Prescription Drug Products "sets forth [the] requirements for patient labeling for human prescription drug products … that the [FDA] determines pose a serious and significant public health concern requiring distribution of FDA-approved patient information." 21 C.F.R. § 208.1(a). "The purpose of patient labeling for human prescription drug products … is to provide information when the FDA determines in writing that it is necessary to patients' safety and effective use of drug products." *Id.*

154.   Under 21 C.F.R. § 208.20, a "Medication Guide" "shall contain" a series of "headings relevant to the drug product" which "shall contain the specific information as follows: … (1) [t]he brand name ….; (2) the heading, "What is the most important information I should know about (name of drug)?" followed by a statement describing the particular serious and significant public health concern that created the need for the Medication Guide …'; and (3) "the heading 'What is (name of drug)?' followed by a section that identifies a drug product's indications for use" and other phrases.

155.   Prescription drug web properties typically include Medication Guide information.

156.   Therefore, Google can readily identify all or substantially all pharmaceutical companies from which it is acquiring Health Information by using the Google crawlers to identify and index all properties that include the Medication Guide information.

157.   In addition to "indexing" the legally required language on web properties, Google and other data industry companies categorize webpage and/or web property "content" into classifications or taxonomies (sometimes referred to as "verticals") that are typically used for ad targeting.

158.   Industry "Content Taxonomy" standards are published by the Interactive Advertising Bureau (IAB), a trade group consisting of more than 700 companies that develops technical standards and solutions for the ad tech industry.[54] The IAB "Content Taxonomy" standards include but are not limited to the following categories: medical health, blood disorders, bone and joint conditions, brain and nervous system disorders, cancer, dental health, diabetes, digestive disorders, ENT conditions, endocrine and metabolic diseases, hormonal disorders, menopause, thyroid disorders, eye and vision

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[54] The full standards are available at: https://iabtechlab.com/standards/content-taxonomy and https://iabtechlab.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/Content-Taxonomy-v3.0-Final.xlsx (last visited May 3, 2023).

conditions, foot health, heart and cardiovascular diseases, infectious diseases, lung and respiratory health, mental health, reproductive health, birth control, infertility, pregnancy, sexual health, skin and dermatology, sleep disorders, substance abuse, medical tests, pharmaceutical drugs, surgery, and vaccines.

159.   Google has publicly listed verticals that it employs or has employed internally to categorize the content of particular communications and/or web properties. This is available at https://developers.google.com/adwords/api/docs/appendix/verticals and includes the following health categories:

Criterion ID	Parent ID	Category
249	38	/Finance/Insurance/Health Insurance
45	0	/Health
623	45	/Health/Aging & Geriatrics
624	623	/Health/Aging & Geriatrics/Alzheimer's Disease
499	45	/Health/Alternative & Natural Medicine
1239	499	/Health/Alternative & Natural Medicine/Acupuncture & Chinese Medicine
1238	499	/Health/Alternative & Natural Medicine/Cleansing & Detoxification
419	45	/Health/Health Conditions
625	419	/Health/Health Conditions/AIDS & HIV
626	419	/Health/Health Conditions/Allergies
628	419	/Health/Health Conditions/Arthritis
630	419	/Health/Health Conditions/Blood Sugar & Diabetes
429	419	/Health/Health Conditions/Cancer
629	419	/Health/Health Conditions/Cold & Flu
1211	419	/Health/Health Conditions/Ear Nose & Throat
571	419	/Health/Health Conditions/Eating Disorders
1328	419	/Health/Health Conditions/Endocrine Conditions
1329	1328	/Health/Health Conditions/Endocrine Conditions/Thyroid Conditions
638	419	/Health/Health Conditions/GERD & Digestive Disorders
941	419	/Health/Health Conditions/Genetic Disorders
559	419	/Health/Health Conditions/Heart & Hypertension
643	559	/Health/Health Conditions/Heart & Hypertension/Cholesterol Issues
632	419	/Health/Health Conditions/Infectious Diseases
1262	632	/Health/Health Conditions/Infectious Diseases/Parasites & Parasitic Diseases
1263	632	/Health/Health Conditions/Infectious Diseases/Vaccines & Immunizations
817	419	/Health/Health Conditions/Injury
942	419	/Health/Health Conditions/Neurological Conditions
641	942	/Health/Health Conditions/Neurological Conditions/Learning & Developmental Disabilities

642	641	/Health/Health Conditions/Neurological Conditions/Learning & Developmental Disabilities/ADD & ADHD
1856	641	/Health/Health Conditions/Neurological Conditions/Learning & Developmental Disabilities/Autism Spectrum Disorders
818	419	/Health/Health Conditions/Obesity
819	419	/Health/Health Conditions/Pain Management
631	819	/Health/Health Conditions/Pain Management/Headaches & Migraines
824	419	/Health/Health Conditions/Respiratory Conditions
627	824	/Health/Health Conditions/Respiratory Conditions/Asthma
420	419	/Health/Health Conditions/Skin Conditions
633	419	/Health/Health Conditions/Sleep Disorders
254	45	/Health/Health Education & Medical Training
252	45	/Health/Health Foundations & Medical Research
251	45	/Health/Medical Devices & Equipment
1352	251	/Health/Medical Devices & Equipment/Assistive Technology
1353	1352	/Health/Medical Devices & Equipment/Assistive Technology/Mobility Equipment & Accessories
256	45	/Health/Medical Facilities & Services
634	256	/Health/Medical Facilities & Services/Doctors' Offices
250	256	/Health/Medical Facilities & Services/Hospitals & Treatment Centers
635	256	/Health/Medical Facilities & Services/Medical Procedures
943	635	/Health/Medical Facilities & Services/Medical Procedures/Medical Tests & Exams
944	635	/Health/Medical Facilities & Services/Medical Procedures/Surgery
238	944	/Health/Medical Facilities & Services/Medical Procedures/Surgery/Cosmetic Surgery
500	256	/Health/Medical Facilities & Services/Physical Therapy
253	45	/Health/Medical Literature & Resources
945	253	/Health/Medical Literature & Resources/Medical Photos & Illustration
636	45	/Health/Men's Health
437	45	/Health/Mental Health
639	437	/Health/Mental Health/Anxiety & Stress
511	437	/Health/Mental Health/Counseling Services
640	437	/Health/Mental Health/Depression
418	45	/Health/Nursing
649	418	/Health/Nursing/Assisted Living & Long Term Care
456	45	/Health/Nutrition
457	456	/Health/Nutrition/Special & Restricted Diets
1572	457	/Health/Nutrition/Special & Restricted Diets/Kosher Foods
1570	457	/Health/Nutrition/Special & Restricted Diets/Low Carbohydrate Diets
1571	457	/Health/Nutrition/Special & Restricted Diets/Low Fat & Low Cholesterol Diets
237	456	/Health/Nutrition/Vitamins & Supplements
245	45	/Health/Oral & Dental Care
645	45	/Health/Pediatrics
248	45	/Health/Pharmacy
646	248	/Health/Pharmacy/Drugs & Medications

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947	45	/Health/Public Health
1256	947	/Health/Public Health/Health Policy
644	947	/Health/Public Health/Occupational Health & Safety
946	947	/Health/Public Health/Toxic Substances & Poisoning
195	45	/Health/Reproductive Health
198	195	/Health/Reproductive Health/Birth Control
647	195	/Health/Reproductive Health/Infertility
202	195	/Health/Reproductive Health/Male Impotence
558	195	/Health/Reproductive Health/OBGYN
536	195	/Health/Reproductive Health/Sex Education & Counseling
1236	195	/Health/Reproductive Health/Sexual Enhancement
421	195	/Health/Reproductive Health/Sexually Transmitted Diseases
257	45	/Health/Substance Abuse
1351	257	/Health/Substance Abuse/Drug & Alcohol Testing
1350	257	/Health/Substance Abuse/Drug & Alcohol Treatment
1237	257	/Health/Substance Abuse/Smoking & Smoking Cessation
1235	257	/Health/Substance Abuse/Steroids & Performance-Enhancing Drugs
246	45	/Health/Vision Care
1502	246	/Health/Vision Care/Eye Exams & Optometry
1224	246	/Health/Vision Care/Eyeglasses & Contacts
1503	246	/Health/Vision Care/Laser Vision Correction
648	45	/Health/Women's Health

160.   Therefore, Google can readily identify all or substantially all Health Care Providers from which it is acquiring Health Information by using its existing content taxonomy to filter for health-related information.

161.   Accordingly, Google is readily capable of identifying the Health Care Providers from whom it has unlawfully acquired Health Information because: (1) Google knows which web properties are using the Google Source Code; and (2) Google can cross-reference that list for Health Care Providers because it has existing systems of indexing and content categorization.

G.   Google's Acquisition and Its Own Use of Health Information Is Unlawful and Violates Reasonable Expectations of Privacy

162.   As set forth below, Google's acquisition of Health Information is unlawful because Google's possession of this information, and thus by extension its internal use, is in violation of federal, state and common law, which protects the disclosure of Health Information and which requires valid *patient* consent – something Google does not have.

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163.   In addition, Google's acquisition and internal use of Health Information constitutes an invasion of privacy as individuals have a reasonable expectation of privacy over their Health Information. This includes reasonable expectations of privacy that:

a.   Their Health Information will not be tracked by Google without their express knowledge and authorization;

b.   Their Health Information will not be collected by Google without their express knowledge and authorization;

c.   Their Health Information will not be monetized by Google without their express knowledge and authorization;

d.   Their Health Information will not be used for any marketing purpose by Google without their express knowledge and authorization;

e.   Google will not permit or enable Health Care Providers to use Google tools in a way through which Google can track, collect, and monetize their Health Information; and

f.   Google will not knowingly participate in or enable unlawful activity that negatively impacts their rights, either on its own or in coordination with their Health Care Providers.

164.   These expectations of privacy are well-grounded, as the confidentiality, sensitivity and inherent privacy of Health Information have been recognized and held firm throughout history and within current legal frameworks. Indeed, the confidentiality of Health Information finds its origins as far back as 400 B.C., in the original Hippocratic Oath:

> Whatever I see or hear in the lives of my patients, whether in connection with my professional practice or not, which ought not to be spoken of outside, I will keep secret, as considering all such things to be private.[55]

165.   That Oath has carried forward today in the legal concept of a medical provider's duty of confidentiality. *See, e.g.,* American Medical Association's ("AMA") Code of Medical Ethics

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[55] Translation of Original Hippocratic Oath by Michael North, National Library of Medicine, National Institutes of Health, https://www.nlm.nih.gov/hmd/greek/greek_oath.html (last accessed May 16, 2023).

1 Opinion 3.1.1. (affirming that "protecting information gathered in association with the care of the

2 patient is a core value of health care" and "[p]atient privacy encompasses a number of aspects

3 including…personal data (informational privacy)"; "Physicians must seek to protect patient privacy

4 in all settings to the greatest extent possible…");[56] AMA Code of Medical Ethics Opinion 3.2.4

5 (confirming expectation of privacy over health-related information and stating that third-party access

6 for commercial purposes can only occur if information has been de-identified and with full disclosure

7 to patients); [57]AMA Code of Medical Ethics Opinion 3.3.2 (same). [58]

8   166.   The protections afforded Health Information are also well-recognized in federal, state

9 and common law. Each is addressed in turn below.

10   **1.   Google's Conduct Is Unlawful and Individuals Have a Reasonable**

11   **Expectation of Privacy Under Federal Law**

12   167.   Google's unlawful acquisition and use of Health Information for which an individual

13 has a reasonable expectation of privacy is well supported by federal law.

14   168.   <u>Health Information Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA), 42 U.S.C. §§ 1320d</u>

15 <u>et seq.</u>: HIPAA provides federal protections for "protected health information," which includes the

16 Health Information at issue in this case.

17   169.   Specifically, "protected health information" is defined to include "individually

18 identifiable health information" that is transmitted or maintained by electronic media or in any other

19 form or medium. *See* 45 CFR § 160.103. Any person (e.g. Google) who knowingly and in violation

20 of HIPAA "(1) uses or causes to be used a unique health identifier; (2) obtains individually

21 identifiable health information relating to an individual; or (3) discloses individually identifiable

22 health information to another person" may be subject to fines and imprisonment. 42 U.S.C. § 1320d-

23

24 [56] *Code of Medical Ethics Opinion 3.1.1*, AMA, https://www.ama-assn.org/delivering-care/ethics/privacy-health-care (last accessed May 16, 2023).

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26 [57] *Code of Medical Ethics Opinion 3.2.4*, AMA, https://code-medical-ethics.ama-assn.org/ethics-opinions/access-medical-records-data-collection-companies (last accessed May 16, 2023).

27 [58] *Code of Medical Ethics Opinion 3.3.2*, AMA, https://code-medical-ethics.ama-assn.org/ethics-opinions/confidentiality-electronic-medical-records (emphasis added) (last accessed May 16, 2023).

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6.[59]

170.   "Individually identifiable health information" is, in turn, broadly defined to include electronic information and to mean:

> any information, including demographic information, collected from an individual that is:
>
> (A) created or received by a [Health Care Provider]; and
>
> (B) relates to the past, present or future physical or mental health condition of an individual, the provision of health care to an individual, or the past, present, or future payment for the provision of health care to an individual; and
>
>> (i) identifies the individual; or
>>
>> (ii) with respect to which there is a reasonable basis to believe that the information can be used to identify the individual.

See 42 U.S.C. § 1320(6); *see also* 45 C.F.R. 160.103.

171.   This definition squarely encompasses the Health Information at issue, which includes the specific actions taken by patients on their Health Care Provider web properties, the specific time and frequency of each patient interaction (*e.g.,* specific information of when a patient logs-in and logs-out of an online patient portal, requests an appointment, or seeks information about a specific doctor, condition, treatment, or prescription drug) and the content of communications that patients exchange with their Health Care Providers, including communications related to specific medical conditions.[60]

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[59] While there is no private right of action under HIPAA, it nonetheless provides support for the conclusion that Google's conduct is unlawful and an invasion of privacy. Indeed, as discussed further below, HIPAA and its corresponding regulations provide on-point guidance as to the illegality of the conduct alleged herein.

[60] In fact, guidance from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (charged with enforcing and rulemaking under HIPAA), confirms that patient status, *alone*, is protected health information. *See* Dept. of Health and Human Services, *Guidance Regarding Methods for De-identification of Protected Health Information in Accordance with the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) Privacy Rule*, https://www.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/ocr/privacy/hipaa/understanding/coveredentities/De-identification/hhs_deid_guidance.pdf at 5 (issued Nov, 26, 2012) (confirming that "[i]f such information was listed with health condition, health care provision or payment data, *such as an indication that the individual was treated at a certain* clinic, then this information would be []protected health information]") (emphasis added). This protection of patient status is consistent with prior guidance and regulations. *See also* Department of Health and Human Services *Marketing*, https://www.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/ocr/privacy/hipaa/understanding/coveredentities/marketing.p

172.   Likewise, with respect to what "identifies the individual," HIPAA's corresponding federal regulations clarify that "identifiers" are broadly interpreted to include "any [] unique identifying number, characteristic or code…" (42 CFR 164.514(b)(2)(i)(R)), *e.g.*, the identifiers that are at issue in this case.

173.   The above scope and framework of HIPAA clearly reflects the public policy to protect, and indeed the public expectation of privacy over, the Health Information at issue in this case.

174.   And lest there be any dispute, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services issued a bulletin in December 2022 confirming that use of tracking technologies, such as the Google Source Code, which "collect and analyze information about how internet users are interacting with a regulated entity's website or mobile application[,]" are improper for Health Care Provider web properties.[61] Critically, this bulletin did not create new obligations but rather "highlight[ed]" existing obligations under HIPAA, providing and relying on previous guidance and rules that have been in place for decades.

175.   As relevant here, the bulletin highlighted the following:

a.   The bulletin confirmed that use of tracking technologies on a Health Care Provider's website or app results in the disclosure of individually identifiable health information and thus falls within the protections of HIPAA. The bulletin explains:

> Regulated entities disclose a variety of information to tracking technology vendors through tracking technologies placed on a regulated entity's website or mobile app, including individually

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df at 2 (Rev. Apr. 3, 2003 ("covered entities may not sell list of patients to third parties without obtaining authorization from each person on the list"); 65 Fed. Reg. 82717 (Dec. 28, 2000) (stating the "sale of a patient list to a marketing firm" is not permitted under HIPAA); 67 Fed. Reg. 53186 (Aug. 14, 2002) (requiring that "[a] covered entity must have the individual's prior written authorization to use or disclose protected health information for marketing communications," which includes disclosure of patient status through a patient list); 78 Fed. Reg. 5642 (Jan. 25, 2013) (finding that it would be a HIPAA violation "if a covered entity impermissibly disclosed a list of patient names, addresses, and hospital identification numbers").

[61] Department of Health and Human Services, *Use of Online Tracking Technologies by HIPAA Covered Entities and Business Associates*, available at https://www.hhs.gov/hipaa/for-professionals/privacy/guidance/hipaa-online-tracking/index.html (Dec. 1, 2022) (last accessed May 16, 2023).

identifiable health information (IIHI) that the individual provides when they use regulated entities' websites or mobile apps. This information might include an individual's medical record number, home or email address, or dates of appointments, as well as an individual's IP address or geographic location, medical device IDs, or any unique identifying code. All such IIHI collected on a regulated entity's website or mobile app generally is [protected health information (PHI)], even if the individual does not have an existing relationship with the regulated entity and even if the IIHI, such as IP address or geographic location, does not include specific treatment of billing information like dates and types of health care services. This is because, when a regulated entity collects the individual's IIHI through its website or mobile app, the information connects the individual to the regulated entity (i.e. it is indicative that the individual has received or will receive health care services or benefits from the covered entity), and thus relates to the individual's past, present, or future health or health care or payment for care.[62]

b.   The bulletin confirmed tracking technology vendors, e.g. Google, must also be subject to HIPAA when protected health information is at issue. In such cases, Health Care Providers are required to enter into a business associate agreement (BAA) with the vendor to ensure that protected health information is protected in accordance with HIPAA. The bulletin explains:

[] [T]racking technology vendors are business associates if they create, receive, maintain, or transmit PHI on behalf of a regulated entity for a covered function (e.g. health care operations) or provide certain services to or for a covered entity (or another business associate) that involve the disclosure of PHI. In these circumstances, regulated entities must ensure that the disclosures made to such vendors are permitted by the Privacy Rule and enter into a business associate agreement (BAA) with these tracking technology vendors to ensure that PHI is protected in accordance with the HIPAA Rules. For example, if an individual makes an appointment through the website of a covered health clinic for health services and that website uses third party tracking technologies, then the website might automatically transmit information regarding the appointment and the individual's IP address to a tracking technology vendor. In this case, the tracking technology vendor is a business associate and

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[62] *Id.* (explanation provided under sub-heading *How do the HIPAA Rules apply to regulated entities' use of tracking technologies?*) (internal citations omitted).

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a BAA is required.[63]

c.   The bulletin confirmed that use of tracking technologies on "authenticated" webpages, i.e. pages which require log-on (like a patient portal), implicates HIPAA protections. The bulletin explains:

> Regulated entities may have user-authenticated webpages, which require a user to log in before they are able to access the webpage, such as a patient or health plan beneficiary portal or a telehealth platform. Tracking technologies on a regulated entity's user-authenticated webpages generally have access to PHI. Such PHI may include, for example, an individual's IP address, medical record number, home or email addresses, dates of appointments, or other identifying information that the individual may provide when interacting with the webpage. Tracking technologies within user-authenticated webpages may even have access to an individual's diagnosis and treatment information, prescription information, billing information, or other information within the portal. Therefore, a regulated entity must configure any user-authenticated webpages that include tracking technologies to allow such technologies to **only** use and disclose PHI in compliance with the HIPAA Privacy Rule and must ensure that the electronic protected health information (ePHI) collected through its website is protected and secured in accordance with the HIPAA Security Rule.[64]

d.   The bulletin confirmed that use of tracking technologies on "unauthenticated" webpages likely implicates HIPAA protections. The bulletin explains that while tracking on unauthenticated webpages may not have access to individuals' PHI, this is not always the case:

> [] [T]racking technologies on unauthenticated webpages may have access to PHI, in which case the HIPAA Rules apply to the regulated entities' use of tracking technologies and disclosures to tracking technology vendors. Examples of unauthenticated webpages where the HIPAA Rules apply include:
>
> • The login page of a regulated entity's patient portal (which may be the website's homepage or a separate, dedicated login page), or a user registration webpage where an individual creates a login for the patient portal, generally are

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[63] *Id.* (explanation provided under sub-heading *Tracking on user-authenticated webpages*) (internal citations omitted).

[64] *Id.* (explanation provided under sub-heading *Tracking on user-authenticated webpages*) (bold emphasis in original) (internal citations omitted).

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unauthenticated because the individual did not provide credentials to be able to navigate to those webpages. However, if the individual enters credential information on that login webpage or enters registration information (*e.g.*, name, email address) on that registration page, such information is PHI.https://www.hhs.gov/hipaa/for-professionals/privacy/guidance/hipaa-online-tracking/index.html - ftn29 Therefore, if tracking technologies on a regulated entity's patient portal login page or registration page collect an individual's login information or registration information, that information is PHI and is protected by the HIPAA Rules.

- Tracking technologies on a regulated entity's unauthenticated webpage that addresses specific symptoms or health conditions, such as pregnancy or miscarriage, or that permits individuals to search for doctors or schedule appointments without entering credentials may have access to PHI in certain circumstances. For example, tracking technologies could collect an individual's email address and/or IP address when the individual visits a regulated entity's webpage to search for available appointments with a health care provider. In this example, the regulated entity is disclosing PHI to the tracking technology vendor, and thus the HIPAA Rules apply.[65]

    e.   The bulletin confirms that Health Care Providers must ensure that proper notice and consent are acquired for the disclosure of protected health information. The bulletin explains:

    …

- Regulated entities may identify the use of tracking technologies in their website or mobile app's privacy policy, notice, or terms and conditions of use. However, the Privacy Rule does **not** permit disclosures of PHI to a tracking technology vendor [e.g. Google] based solely on a regulated entity informing individuals in its privacy policy, notice, or terms and conditions of use that it plans to make such disclosures. Regulated entities must ensure that all tracking technology vendors have signed a BAA and that there is an applicable permission prior to a disclosure of PHI.

- If there is not an applicable Privacy Rule permission or if the vendor is not a business associate of the regulated entity,

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[65] *Id.* (explanation provided under sub-heading *Tracking on unauthenticated webpages*) (internal citations omitted).

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then the individual's HIPAA-compliant authorizations are required **before** the PHI is disclosed to the vendor. Website banners that ask users to accept or reject a website's use of tracking technologies, such as cookies, do **not** constitute a valid HIPAA authorization.

- Further, it is insufficient for a tracking technology vendor to agree to remove PHI from the information it receives or de-identify the PHI before the vendor saves the information. Any disclosure of PHI to the vendor without individuals' authorizations requires the vendor to have a signed BAA in place **and** requires that there is an applicable Privacy Rule permission for disclosure.[66]

176.   Given the above framework, it is clear that HIPAA protections encompass the conduct and Health Information at issue here. Google's acquisition and use of patients' Health Information is unlawful and individuals have an objectively reasonable expectation of privacy over this information.

177.   Electronic Communications Privacy Act ("ECPA"): While not specific to Health Information, the ECPA provides guiding standards for the protection of electronic communications, which are at issue in this action. Under the ECPA, Google cannot intercept, acquire and/or use the "content" of an electronic communication, i.e. the substance, purport, or meaning of an electronic communication, without the lawful consent of a party to a communication. *See* 18 U.S.C. § 2511(1), (2)(d).[67]

178.   The Health Information at issue in this action pertains to the substance, purport or meaning of patient's electronic health communications because it includes, but is not limited to, interception and acquisition by Google of the specific actions taken by patients on their Health Care Provider web properties, the specific time and frequency of each patient interaction (e.g. specific information of when a patient logs-in and logs-out of an online patient portal, requests an appointment, or seeks information about a specific doctor, condition, treatment, or prescription drug),

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[66] *Id.* (explanation provided under sub-heading, *HIPAA compliance obligations for regulated entities when using tracking technologies*) (bold emphasis in original) (internal citations omitted).

[67] Google did not obtain lawful consent from Plaintiffs and Class Members. Further, insofar as Google contends that consent was obtained from the Health Care Provider, such consent is invalid for the purposes of the ECPA because it was acquired "for the purpose of committing [] criminal or tortious act[s] in violation of the Constitution or laws of the United States or of any State" (18 U.S.C. § 1251(2)(d)), including but not limited to violation of the laws set forth herein.

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1   and the content of communications that patients exchange with their Health Care Providers, *e.g.*,

2   communications relating to specific medical issues.

2.   Google's Conduct Is Unlawful and Individuals Have a Reasonable

Expectation of Privacy Under State Law

5   179.   Google's unlawful acquisition and use of Health Information for which an individual

6   has a reasonable expectation of privacy is well supported by state law. Indeed, nearly every state has

7   recognized the highly personal and sensitive nature of health information such that specific laws have

8   been enacted to protect this information.

9   180.   Because the Google Terms of Service expressly adopts California law, Plaintiffs

10   provide an overview of California law.[68]

11   181.   In California, the Health Information at issue is protected by, among other statutes and

12   regulations, the California Invasion of Privacy Act, the California Confidentiality of Medical

13   Information Act; the California Consumer Privacy Act, and California Civ. Code § 1798.91.

14   182.   California Invasion of Privacy Act ("CIPA"), Cal. Penal Code §§ 630 *et seq.*: As with

15   the ECPA, California's analog to the federal wiretap statue recognizes individuals' reasonable

16   expectation of privacy that a third-party company like Google will not acquire the contents of their

17   Health Information.

18   183.   The CIPA provides similar prohibitions to the interception, acquisition, and/or use of

19   the "content" of electronic communications, i.e. the substance, purport, or meaning of an electronic

20   communication, without lawful consent of *all* parties to the communication. Cal. Penal Code § 631.

21   As explained above, the Health Information at issue in this action pertains to the substance, purport

22   or meaning of patient's electronic health communications.

23   184.   California Confidentiality of Medical Information Act ("CMIA"), Cal. Civ. Code §§

24   56 *et seq.*: The CMIA recognizes the inherently private and confidential nature of "medical

25   information" and prohibits Health Care Providers from disclosing that information without first

26

27   [68] *See* Google, *Terms of Service*, https://policies.google.com/terms?hl=en (asserting that "California law will govern all disputes arising out of or relating to these terms, service-specific additional terms, or any related services, regardless of conflict of law rules") (last visited May 16, 2023).

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1   receiving valid written authorization from the patient. *See* Cal. Civ. Code § 56.10. The authorization

2   required is heavily regulated and must, among other things, include specific uses and limitations on

3   the type of medical information to be disclosed and provide an end date for the authorization. *See*

4   Cal. Civ. Code §§ 56.11, 56.21

5   185.   Under the CMIA, "medical information" is "any individually identifiable information,

6   in electronic or physical form, in possession of or derived from a provider of health care, health care

7   service plan, pharmaceutical company, or contractor regarding a patient's medical history, mental or

8   physical condition, or treatment." Cal. Civ. Code § 56.05(i). "[I]ndividually identifiable information"

9   means that "the medical information includes or contains any element of personal identifying

10 information sufficient to allow identification of the individual, such as the patient's name, address,

11 electronic mail address, telephone number, or social security number, or other information that

12 reveals the individual's identity." Cal. Civ. Code § 56.05(i).

13   186.   The CMIA's definition of medical information applies to the Health Information at

14 issue here. Further, the CIMA supports the conclusion that California law recognizes individuals'

15 reasonable expectations of privacy over this information and that Google's acquisition and use of

16 patients' Health Information is subject to the CMIA's provisions regarding valid authorization.

17   187.   <u>California Consumer Privacy Act ("CCPA"), Cal. Civ. Code §§ 1798.100 *et seq.*</u>: The

18 CCPA recognizes and secures individuals' right to privacy and control over the "personal

19 information" that businesses may collect about them online. *See* Cal. Civ. Code § 1798.100. Violation

20 of the CCPA may lead to civil actions and monetary damages. Cal. Civ. Code § 1798.150(a)(1).

21   188.   The CCPA's definition of "personal information" includes:

22   a.   "[I] nformation that identifies, relates to, describes, is reasonably capable of

23   being associated with, or could reasonably be linked, directly or indirectly,

24   with a particular consumer or household." Cal. Civ. Code § 1798.140(v)(1).

25   This includes any unique personal identifier, online identifier, Internet

26   Protocol address, email address, account name, or other similar identifiers if

27   they identify, relate to, describe, are reasonably capable of being associated

28

with, or could be reasonably linked, directly or indirectly, with a particular consumer or household. *See* Cal. Civ. Code § 1798.140(v)(1)(A)-(C).

      b.   The CCPA identifies a sub-category of personal information as "sensitive personal information," and defines this to include "personal information collected and analyzed concerning a consumer's health." Cal. Civ. Code § 1798.140(ae)(2)(B).

189.   Under the CCPA, a business that controls the collection of sensitive personal information (e.g. health related information) shall, at or before the point of collection, inform consumers of the categories of sensitive personal information to be collected and the purposes for which the categories of sensitive personal information are collected or used, and whether that information is sold or shared. *See* Cal. Civ. Code § 1798.100(a)(2). A business shall not collect additional categories of sensitive personal information or use sensitive personal information collected for additional purposes that are incompatible with the disclosed purpose for which the sensitive personal information was collected without providing the consumer with notice consistent with this section. *See id.*

190.   The CCPA's definition of personal information encompasses the Health Information at issue here. Further, the CCPA supports the conclusion that California law recognizes individuals' reasonable expectations of privacy over this information and that Google's acquisition and use of patients' Health Information is subject to the CCPA's provisions regarding valid disclosure.

191.   California Civ. Code § 1798.91: Under Section 1798.91, a business may not request medical information directly from an individual – regardless of whether the information pertains to the individual or not – and use, share, or otherwise disclose that information for direct marketing purposes, without doing the following prior to obtaining that information:

(1) Disclosing in a clear and conspicuous manner that it is obtaining the information to market or advertise products, goods, or services to the individual; and

(2) Obtaining the written consent of either the individual to whom the information pertains or a person legally authorized to consent for the individual, to permit his or her medical information to be used or shared to market or advertise products, goods, or services to the individual.

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1   *See* Cal. Civ. Code § 1798.91(c).

2   192.   Under Section 1798.91, "direct marketing purposes" means "the use of personal

3   information for marketing or advertising products, goods, or services directly to individuals." Cal.

4   Civ. Code § 1798.91(a)(1).

5   193.   Under Section 1798.91, "medical information" is defined in the same manner as used

6   under the CMIA. *See* Cal. Civ. Code § 1798.91(a)(2).

7   194.   Section 1798.91's definition of medical information encompasses the Health

8   Information at issue here. Further, in order to obtain lawful consent for the conduct alleged herein,

9   which includes the interception, acquisition and use of Health Information for purposes of targeted

10 advertising, Google was required to comply with the provisions Section 1798.91 and it failed to do

11 so.

12   **3.   Google's Conduct Is Unlawful and Individuals Have a Reasonable**

13   **Expectation of Privacy Under Common Law**

14   195.   Google's unlawful acquisition of, and individuals' reasonable expectation of privacy

15 over, Health Information is well supported by common law, which has long protected the privacy and

16 confidentiality of health information and communications. Among others, applicable common laws

17 include:

18   a.   <u>Common Law Privacy Torts</u>: Privacy torts, such as intrusion upon seclusion,

19   public disclosure of private facts, and breach of fiduciary duty create a

20   reasonable expectation that individuals' Health Information will not be shared

21   without their knowledge or authorization, and that a third-party company will

22   not obtain such information without their knowledge or authorization.

23   b.   <u>Property and Trespass</u>: At common law, individuals have the right to possess,

24   use, enjoy or dispose of their own property. This includes intangible property.

25   *See, e.g. Fields v. Michael*, 91 Cal. App. 2d 443, 449 (1949) ("[t]he word

26   'property' may be properly used to signify any valuable right or interest

27   protected by law"); *People v. Kozlowski*, 96 Cal. App. 4th 853 (2002) ("[t]he

28   term [property] is all-embracing, including every intangible benefit and

1   prerogative susceptible of possession or disposition"); *People v. Kwok*, 75 Cal.

2   App. 4th 1236, 1251 (1998) (property includes a copy of a key that is made

3   without the owner's knowledge when the original is returned to the owner,

4   "which is analogous to making … an unauthorized copy of computer data").

5   196.   Accordingly, Google's unauthorized interception, acquisition and use of patients'

6 Health Information, which is the private property of individuals, is actionable. Indeed, if Google

7 broke into individuals' homes, or a Health Care Provider's brick-and-mortar facility, to steal the

8 Health Information at issue here, there would be no doubt that an invasion of privacy and loss of

9 property had been suffered. Plaintiffs' rights in this case are not any less worthy of legal protection.

10   **H.   Google's Conduct Violates Its Own Express Promises**

11   197.   In addition to violating federal, state and common laws, Google's misconduct also

12 contravenes its own express promises.

13   198.   As set forth below, these promises are made in, among other places, Google's Terms

14 of Service and the Google's Privacy Policy.

15   199.   As detailed below, Google's Terms of Service and Google's Privacy Policy contain

16 promises that Google will ensure compliance with applicable laws, that it will respect and protect

17 privacy rights, that it will not collect Health Information without individuals' consent, and that it will

18 not use Health Information for purposes of personalized advertising.

19   200.   With respect to all patients, the promises reinforce patients' expectations of privacy

20 over their Health Information.

21   201.   With respect to patients who are Google Account Holders, the promises operate as

22 contractually binding terms between Google and Google Account Holders because Google requires

23 that all Google Account Holders expressly agree to these contracts of adhesion upon signing up to be

24 a Google Account Holder, and Google states that the promises "define Google's relationship" with

25 them.[69]

26

27 _____

[69] *See* Google, *Terms of Service*, https://policies.google.com/terms?hl=en-US (last visited May 16,

28 2023).

202.   With respect to patients who are non-Google Account Holders, i.e. those that were not required to expressly agree to the Google Terms of Service or the Google Privacy Policy, the documents nonetheless provide a basis for implied contract as Google maintains that these terms apply when anyone "interact[s] with [Google] services."[70]

1.   The Google Terms of Service

203.   The Google Terms of Service states that it "establish[es] what you can expect from [Google] as you use Google services, and what [Google] expect[s] from you."[71] Specifically, Google asserts that "[The] Terms of Service reflect the way Google's business works, the laws that apply to our company, and certain things we've always believed to be true. As a result, these Terms of Service help define Google's relationship with you as you interact with our services."[72]

204.   The Google Terms of Service states that Google "want[s] to maintain a respectful environment for everyone, which means you [i.e. individuals and businesses that use Google products and services] must follow [] basic rules of conduct," which includes "compl[ying] with applicable laws," "respect[ing] the rights of others, including privacy and intellectual property rights," and refraining from "abuse or harm [to] others…for example, by misleading [or] defrauding…others."[73] Google therefore promises individuals that it *requires* that any person or business using Google to comply with applicable law, respect privacy rights, and refrain from misleading or fraudulent conduct.

205.   Google breaks this promise because it does not *require* Health Care Providers to comply with applicable law, to respect privacy rights, or to refrain from engaging in misleading or fraudulent conduct in the unlawful tracking, collection and disclosure to Google of patients' Health Information. To the contrary, Google fails to use its systems to detect, deter, or prevent its collection of Health Information from Health Care Providers.

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[70] *Id.* stating "these Terms of Service help define Google's relationship with you *as you interact with our services*" (emphasis added) and (that "by using our services, you're agreeing to these terms).

[71] *Id.*

[72] *Id.* (hyperlinks in original).

[73] *Id.*

2.   The Google Privacy Policy

206.   The Google Privacy Policy is referenced in the Google Terms of Service.[74]

207.   The Google Privacy Policy is "meant to help you understand what information we collect, why we collect it, and how you can update, manage, export, and delete your information."[75]

208.   The Google Privacy Policy "applies to all of the services offered by Google LLC and its affiliates, including YouTube, Android, and services offered on third-party sites, such as advertising services."[76]

209.   The Google Privacy Policy contains the following promise which reinforces patients' expectations of privacy that Google will not track and collect their Health Information. Under the sub-heading *Categories of information we collect,* the Google Privacy Policy specifically identifies "health information" as a distinct category of information, and explains that its collection of this information is limited to only when a person "choose[s] to provide it":

> **Health information** *if you choose to provide it,* such as your medical history, vital signs and health metrics (like blood glucose levels), and other similar information related to your physical or mental health, in the course of using Google services that offer health-related features, such as the Google Health Studies app.[77]

210.   Google violates this promise by collecting Health Information that patients do not choose to provide.

211.   In addition, the Google Privacy Policy contains the following promise which reinforces patients' expectations of privacy that Google will not track, collect, and use their Health Information, nor will it allow its advertisers to do so:

[74] *See* Google, *Terms of Service*, https://policies.google.com/terms?hl=en-US (stating "[y]ou also agree that our Privacy Policy applies to use of our services). From March 31, 2020, to January 5, 2020, the Google Terms of Service stated that the Google Privacy is "not part of these terms" but Google nonetheless "encourage[d] [individuals] to read it to better understand how [they] [could] update, manage, export, and delete [their] information." Google, *Google Terms of Service*, Archived Version effective March 31, 2020, https://policies.google.com/terms/archive/20200331?hl=en.

[75] Google, *Privacy Policy*, https://policies.google.com/privacy?hl=en-US (last visited May 16, 2023).

[76] *Id.*

[77] *Id.* (bold emphasis in original) (italicized emphasis added). This promise has appeared in the Google Privacy Policy since December 15, 2022. *See* Google, *Google Privacy Policy*, Archived versions, https://policies.google.com/privacy/archive?hl=en.

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a.   Under the sub-heading *Why Google Collects Data,* the Google Privacy Policy promises that Google "do[es] [not] show you personalized ads based on sensitive categories, such as race, religion, sexual orientation, or *health*."[78]

b.   The Google Privacy Policy defines "sensitive categories" as follows:

"When showing you personalized ads, we use topics that we think might be of interest to you based on your activity. For example, you may see ads for things like 'Cooking and Recipes' or 'Air Travel.' *We don't use topics or show personalized ads based on sensitive categories like race, religion, sexual orientation, or health. And we require the same from advertisers that use our services*."[79]

c.   In the above definition of sensitive categories, the hyperlinked text require the same from advertisers takes individuals to document titled *Personalized advertising*, in which Google promises that it prohibits advertising based on:[80]

- "Restricted drug terms," such as "prescription medications and information about prescription medications, unless the medication and any listed ingredient are only intended for animal use and are not prone to human abuse or other misuse;" and

- "personal health content," such as "physical or mental health conditions, including diseases, sexual health, and chronic health conditions"; "[p]roducts, services, or procedures to treat or manage chronic health conditions…"; "any health issues associated with intimate body parts or functions…"; "invasive medical procedures"; and "[d]isabilities, even when content is oriented toward the user's primary caretaker."

d.   The Google Privacy Policy references a document titled *What happens if you violate our policies*, in which Google promises: "Remarketing lists that don't follow the Personalized advertising policy may be disabled, meaning that these lists can no longer be used with ad campaigns, and new users won't be added

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[78] *Id.* (emphasis added). This promise has appeared in the Google Privacy Policy since May 25, 2018.

[79] *Id.* (emphasis added) (hyperlink in original). This definition, promise and hyperlink has appeared consistently in the Google Privacy Policy since May 25, 2018.

[80]   Google   Advertising   Policies   Help,   *Personalized   Advertising*, https://support.google.com/adspolicy/answer/143465?hl=en (last visited May 16, 2023).

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to the lists. List creation restrictions may apply to both individual web pages and entire websites or apps."[81]

212.   Google breaks each of the above promises because it does, in fact: use Health Information to shows ads based on sensitive categories, like health; does not prevent its advertisers from using and showing targeted ads based on sensitive categories, like health; permits targeting and advertising based on restricted drug terms and personal health content; and does not disable remarketing lists that fail to comply with Google's personalized advertising policy (i.e. prohibition on the use of showing of personalized ads based on sensitive categories).

213.   In addition, and as seen in the Google Terms of Service, the Google Privacy Policy makes repeated promises regarding Google's commitment to protecting individuals from fraud, abuse, and illegal activity. These promises, identified below, reinforce patients' reasonable expectations of privacy their Health Information, and are contractual promises regarding Google's obligations:

a.   The Google Privacy Policy promises that Google will "protect [users] against security threats, abuse, and illegal activity" by "us[ing] … information to detect, prevent and respond to security incidents, and for protecting against other malicious, deceptive, fraudulent or illegal activity."[82]

b.   The Google Privacy Policy contains a link to "Learn more about how Google uses data when you use our partners' sites or apps." This link takes users to Google's Privacy & Terms page.[83] On the Google Privacy & Terms page,

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[81] Google Advertising Policies Help, *What Happens if You Violate Our Policies*, https://support.google.com/adspolicy/answer/7187501? (last visited May 16, 2023).

[82] This promise has appeared consistently in the Google Privacy Policy since December 19, 2019, and from May 25, 2018 to December 18, 2019, the Google Privacy Policy contained substantially similar language, i.e. "we [Google] use information to help improve the safety and reliability of our services. This includes detecting, preventing, and responding to fraud, abuse, security risks and technical issues that could harm google, our users, or the public." Google, *Google Privacy Policy Archived Version May 25, 2018*, https://policies.google.com/privacy/archive/20180525?hl=en.

[83] Google Privacy & Terms, *Technologies*, https://policies.google.com/technologies/partner-sites (last visited May 16, 2023). The Google Privacy Policy has consistently linked to the *Safeguarding Your Data* document since December 18, 2017.

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under the sub-tab *Technologies*," Google promises: "Google uses the information shared by sites and apps to … protect against fraud and abuse[.]"[84]

c.   The Google Privacy Policy references a document titled *Safeguarding your data*, in which Google promises: "Laws protecting user privacy such as the European Economic Area's General Data Protection Regulation and other privacy laws that establish various rights for applicable US-state residents impact content publishers, application developers, website visitors, and application users…. Google is committed to protecting data confidentiality and security."[85]

d.   The Google Privacy Policy references a document titled *What happens if you violate our policies*, in which Google promises users that, "[t]o ensure a safe and positive experience for users, Google requires that advertisers comply with all applicable laws and regulations in addition to the Google Ads policies. Ads, assets, destinations, and other content that violate these policies can be blocked on the Google Ads platform and associated networks."[86]

e.   Also on the *What happens if you violate our policies* page, Google promises it will take corrective and punitive actions against advertisers and publishers that do not comply, including suspending an advertiser account: [87]

> Accounts may be suspended if we find violations of our policies or the Terms and Conditions. If we detect an egregious violation, your account will be suspended immediately and without prior warning. ***An egregious violation of the Google Ads policies is a violation so serious that it is unlawful*** or poses significant harm to our users or

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[84] Google Privacy & Terms, *Technologies – How Google Uses Information From Sites or Apps That Use Our Services*, https://policies.google.com/technologies/partner-sites?hl=en-US (last visited May 8, 2023).

[85] Google Analytics Help, *Safeguarding Your Data*, https://support.google.com/analytics/answer/6004245?hl=en (last visited May 16, 2023). The Google Privacy Policy has consistently linked to the *Safeguarding Your Data* document since May 25, 2018.

[86] Google Advertising Policies Help, *What Happens if You Violate Our Policies*, https://support.google.com/adspolicy/answer/7187501? (last visited May 16, 2023).

[87] *Id.* (emphasis added).

our digital advertising ecosystem. Egregious violations often reflect that the advertiser's overall business does not adhere to Google Ads policies or that one violation is so severe that we cannot risk future exposure to our users. Given that egregious violations will result in immediate account suspension, upon detection and without prior warning, we limit these to cases when such action is the only effective method to adequately prevent illegal activity and/or significant user harm.

f.   Lastly, the Google Privacy Policy references a document titled *Legal requirements*, in which Google promises: "We expect all advertisers to comply with the local laws for any area their ads target, in addition to the standard Google Ads policies. We generally err on the side of caution in applying this policy because we don't want to allow content of questionable legality."[88]

214.   Google violates each of the above promises because it does not protect users against violations of law, privacy, and/or misleading and fraudulent conduct. Google does not require Health Care Providers to comply with applicable law, to respect privacy rights, or to refrain from engaging in misleading or fraudulent conduct in the unlawful tracking, collection and disclosure to Google of patients' Health Information, nor does it use its systems to prevent these abuses. Further, Google does not take action to stop, suspend, or discipline itself or a Health Care Provider for unlawful conduct (which under Google's own definition constitutes "egregious conduct") involving Google's collection of Health Information from Health Care Providers; and it does not "err on the side caution" in enforcing these commitments, but instead, creates a system that facilities the use and showing of targeted advertising based on sensitive categories, like health.

215.   Google violates these promises because the Google Source Code deposits Google Cookies on a patient's device that are disguised as first-party cookies and, thus can and do track a given patient or browser across unrelated websites. Further, Google can and does link the Health Information collected, including the Health Information collected and redirected to Google Analytics, across its various systems and products to be used in its advertising services.

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[88] Google, *Legal Requirements*, https://support.google.com/adspolicy/answer/6023676? (last visited May 16, 2023).

216.   In sum, Google's Privacy & Terms, Terms of Service, and Privacy Policy contain the following broken promises:[89]

GOOGLE TERMS OF SERVICE	
No. 1	Google promises that it "want[s] to maintain a respectful environment for everyone, which means you [i.e. individuals and businesses that use Google products and services] must follow [] basic rules of conduct," which includes "compl[ing] with applicable laws," "respect[ing] the rights of others, including privacy and intellectual property rights," and refraining from "abuse of harm [to] others…for example, by misleading [or] defrauding…others."
GOOGLE PRIVACY POLICY	
No. 2	Under the sub-heading *Categories of information we collect,* the Google Privacy specifically identifies "health information" as a distinct category of information, and explains that its collection of this information is limited to only when a person "choose[s] to provide it": **Health information** *if you choose to provide it,* such as your medical history, vital signs and health metrics (like blood glucose levels), and other similar information related to your physical or mental health, in the course of using Google services that offer health-related features, such as the Google Health Studies app.
No. 3	Under the sub-heading *Why Google Collects Data,* the Google Privacy Policy promises that Google "do[es] [not] show you personalized ads based on sensitive categories, such as race, religion, sexual orientation, or *health*."
No. 4	The Google Privacy Policy defines "sensitive categories" as follows: "When showing you personalized ads, we use topics that we think might be of interest to you based on your activity. For example, you may see ads for things like 'Cooking and Recipes' or 'Air Travel.' *We don't use topics or show personalized ads based on sensitive categories like race, religion, sexual orientation, or health. And we require the same from advertisers that use our services.*"
No. 5	In the above definition of sensitive categories, the hyperlinked text require the same from advertisers takes individuals to document titled *Personalized advertising*, in which Google promises that it prohibits advertising based on: • "Restricted drug terms," such as "prescription medications and information about prescription medications, unless the medication and any listed ingredient are only

[89] To the extent Google claims any other statement in a policy creates express or implied consent to the conduct at issue, any such consent is negated by, among other things, the express promises set forth above and the underlying reasonable expectation that Google will not participate in unlawful conduct.

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	intended for animal use and are not prone to human abuse or other misuse;" and • "personal health content," such as "physical or mental health conditions, including diseases, sexual health, and chronic health conditions"; "[p]roducts, services, or procedures to treat or manage chronic health conditions…"; "any health issues associated with intimate body parts or functions…"; "invasive medical procedures"; and "[d]isabilities, even when content is oriented toward the user's primary caretaker."
No. 6	The Google Privacy Policy references a document titled *What happens if you violate our policies* page, in which Google promises: "Remarketing lists that don't follow the Personalized advertising policy may be disabled, meaning that these lists can no longer be used with ad campaigns, and new users won't be added to the lists. List creation restrictions may apply to both individual web pages and entire websites or apps."
No. 7	The Google Privacy Policy promises that Google will "protect [users] against security threats, abuse, and illegal activity" by "us[ing] … information to detect, prevent, and respond to security incidents, and for protecting against other malicious, deceptive, fraudulent or illegal activity."
No. 8	The Google Privacy Policy contains a link to "Learn more about how Google uses data when you use our partners' sites or apps." This link takes users to Google's Privacy & Terms page. On the Google Privacy & Terms page, under the sub-tab *Technologies*," Google promises: "Google uses the information shared by sites and apps to … protect against fraud and abuse[.]"
No. 9	The Google Privacy Policy references a document titled *Safeguarding your data*, in which Google promises: "Laws protecting user privacy such as the European Economic Area's General Data Protection Regulation and other privacy laws that establish various rights for applicable US-state residents impact content publishers, application developers, website visitors, and application users…. Google is committed to protecting data confidentiality and security."
No. 10	The Google Privacy Policy references a document titled *What happens if you violate our policies*, in which Google promises users that, "[t]o ensure a safe and positive experience for users, Google requires that advertisers comply with all applicable laws and regulations in addition to the Google Ads policies. Ads, assets, destinations, and other content that violate these policies can be blocked on the Google Ads platform and associated networks."
No. 11	Also on the *What happens if you violate our policies* page, Google promises it will take corrective and punitive actions against advertisers and publishers that do not comply, including immediate suspension for egregious violations, which, in turn, is defined to included unlawful activity.
No. 12	The Google Privacy Policy references a document titled *Legal requirements*, in which Google promises: "We expect all advertisers to comply with the local laws for any area their ads target, in addition to the standard Google Ads policies. We generally err on the

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	side of caution in applying this policy because we don't want to allow content of questionable legality."

I.   Google Admits that It Violates These Promises

217.   Google publicly acknowledges that it does not keep its health advertising promises for users in the United States.

218.   On a page titled *Healthcare and medicines*, Google provides advertisers with a list "of health care content that [Google] allow[s] in certain circumstances" for advertising.[90]

219.   The "Healthcare and medicines" page for advertisers is not mentioned in the Google Terms of Service; Google Privacy Policy; or the body of the "Personalized advertising" help page.

220.   Although Google prohibits the use of Health Information for advertising purposes in dozens of countries across a broad range of health categories, the United States is an exception.

221.   For example, Google does not permit advertising for prescription drug manufacturers in Europe, but does in the United States:[91]

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[90]   Google   Advertising   Policies   Help,   *Healthcare   and   Medicines*, https://support.google.com/adspolicy/answer/176031 (last visited May 16, 2023).

[91] *Id.*

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Pharmaceutical manufacturers

Google allows pharmaceutical manufacturers to advertise in select countries only.

Prescription drugs

Pharmaceutical manufacturers may promote prescription drugs in the following countries only: Canada, New Zealand, United States. Pharmaceutical manufacturers may not promote prescription opioid painkillers.

Over-the-counter medicines

Pharmaceutical manufacturers may promote over-the-counter medicines in the following countries only: Australia, Austria, Brazil, Canada, China, Czech Republic, France, Germany, Hungary, Hong Kong, India, Italy, Japan, Kenya, Mexico, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, The Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Russia, Slovakia, South Korea, Spain, Sweden, United Kingdom, United States

Other manufacturers and suppliers

Bulk drug manufacturers, medical professional suppliers, and antibody/peptide/compound suppliers for commercial labs may advertise in the following countries only: Canada, United States

Certification

Pharmaceutical manufacturers must be certified by Google in order to serve ads. See how to apply below.

222.   Google sets up a certification process to expressly permit health ads:[92]

Apply for healthcare products and services certification

Certain advertisers — such as online pharmacies, pharmaceutical manufacturers, and others looking to use prescription drug terms in ad text or landing pages or health insurance advertisers in the United States — need to be certified with Google in order to advertise. If you are such an advertiser, here's how to apply to be certified:

1. Adhere to all country-specific requirements below. If your campaign targets a country that isn't listed, then we don't allow the promotion of prescription drugs or over-the-counter medicines by pharmaceutical manufacturers in that country.

2. Fill out our online application form.

• Please be sure to include your Google Ads customer ID, located at the top of your account pages.
• To cut down on any unnecessary delays, be sure to fill out all of the requested information.
• If you are an agency applying on behalf of an advertiser, please send documentation detailing your relationship with the advertiser or license holder.

223.   Google permits online pharmacies to target by Health Information:[93]

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[92] *Id.*

[93] *Id.*

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Google restricts the promotion of online pharmacies. To determine whether an advertiser is promoting an online pharmacy, we consider a number of factors such as the content of your ads and site or app, as well as the products or services that you offer. For user safety and other reasons, we err on the side of caution in applying this policy, especially for landing pages that link or refer to content that in any way appears to be the online sale of medicines, whether prescription or over-the-counter medicine.

Countries

Google allows the promotion of online pharmacies in only these countries: Australia, Austria, Brazil, Canada, China, Czech Republic, Denmark, Germany, Hong Kong, Israel, Japan, Kenya, Mexico, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Portugal, Russia, Slovakia, Sweden, Taiwan, United Kingdom, and the United States.

Google does not allow the promotion of online pharmacies in other countries.

Keywords

Google allows online pharmacy advertisers to bid on keywords containing prescription drug terms in only the following countries: Australia, Austria, Canada, Czechia, Denmark, Germany, Israel, Japan, Kenya, New Zealand, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Slovakia, United Kingdom, and United States.

Certification

Online pharmacies must be certified by Google in order to serve ads — see how to apply below. To be certified with Google, online pharmacies must be registered with the relevant pharmaceutical authorities in the countries that their ad campaign targets.

224.   Google permits the use of prescription drug terms for advertising:[94]

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[94] *Id.*

In most parts of the world, Google doesn't allow the use of prescription drug terms in ad text, landing pages, keywords, or source code of a web page.

- For campaigns targeting Canada, New Zealand, or the United States, certain businesses such as online pharmacies and pharmaceutical manufacturers may use prescription drug terms in ad text and landing pages. While you do not need to be certified in order to serve your ads, you must be certified in order to keyword target prescription drug terms. These businesses must be certified by Google in order to serve ads — see how to apply below.
- If your campaigns do not target Canada, New Zealand, or the United States, you may not use prescription drug terms in ad text or landing pages.
- In limited cases, and where permitted by local law, Google allows exceptions to this policy for public health and safety awareness campaigns from governmental or well-established non-profit health advocacy organizations. If you would like to apply for such an exception to use prescription drug terms in ad text, landing pages, keywords, or source code of a web page, please contact us.

See a non-exhaustive list of prescription drugs or active ingredients that are monitored under this policy.

225.   Google "monitor[s]" at least 4,291 "prescription drugs … in Google Ads."[95]

226.   Although prohibited elsewhere, Google tells advertisers that it permits advertising based on the following health-related items in the United States as long as the advertiser registers with Google:

    a.   "Google only allows ads for addiction services in Australia, Ireland, New Zealand, and the United States. Google does not allow ads for addiction services in other countries. … Addiction services advertisers must be certified by Google in order to serve ads."

    b.   "Google prohibits the promotion of HIV home tests everywhere in the world except in the United States, France, the Netherlands, and the United Kingdom. In the United States, advertisers may promote home HIV tests that are FDA approved."

[95] Google Advertising Policies Help, *Prescription Drugs*, https://support.google.com/adspolicy/answer/2430794 (last visited May 16, 2023).

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    c.   "Google does not allow the promotion of DHEA products anywhere except the

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           United States[.]"

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    d.   "Google does not allow the promotion of Melatonin products anywhere except

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           Canada and the United States."

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    e.   Google allows ads for prescription opioid painkillers "intended for use as

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           medication-assisted treatment (MAT) for opioid use disorder," but only for (a)

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           public health and safety awareness campaigns from governmental or well-

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           established non-profit health advocacy organizations; (b) ads for non-opioid

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           pharmaceuticals that only refer to prescription opioids in their safety

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           information, and (c) "certified addition treatment providers in the United

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           States. If you would like to apply for such an exception, please contact us."

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    f.   Though prohibited in some countries, Google "allow[s] the promotion of

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           clinical trial recruitment" in the United States.

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    g.   Abortion and birth control.

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    h.   "In the United States, you must be certified by Google in order to advertise

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           health and medical insurance coverage, with the exception of government

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           advertisers, who will be pre-approved. Advertisements exclusively for dental,

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           vision, and/or travel health insurance coverage are not restricted. … Health

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           and medical insurance providers … must be certified by Google in order to

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           serve ads in the United States."

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    227.   The "healthcare-related advertising" page starts with the following:[96]

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[96] Google Ads Help, *Apply for Healthcare-Related Advertising*, https://support.google.com/google-ads/troubleshooter/6099627 (last visited May 16, 2023).

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Apply for healthcare-related advertising

Please select what your organization is

○ Online Pharmacy

○ Pharmaceutical Manufacturer

○ Governmental or well-established non-profit health advocacy organizations

○ Addiction Services Provider

○ Health Insurance Advertiser (Only for United States)

○ Entity that holds an FDA-issued license or approval to market a cell or gene therapy (only for the United States)

228.   Through this interface, Google is able to specifically identify all advertisers who it approves to serve health-care related advertising in these categories.

J.   Google Acknowledges that Google Analytics Is not Appropriate For Web Properties that Deal with Protected Health Information

229.   Google publicly states that Google Analytics is not appropriate for web properties that implicate Health Information. In a page titled, *HIPAA and Google Analytics* Google cautions that Google Analytics results in data collection and thus web properties must ensure that they meet all applicable legal requirements.[97] The full text of Google's own warning is set forth below:

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[97] Google, *HIPAA and Google Analytics*, https://support.google.com/analytics/answer/13297105?hl=en (last visited May 16, 2023).

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HIPAA and Google Analytics

Google Analytics is a measurement solution that can be used to obtain business insights about traffic on your websites and apps. It is important to ensure that your implementation of Google Analytics and the data collected about visitors to your properties satisfies all applicable legal requirements.

Please remember that to protect user privacy, Google Analytics policies and terms mandate that no data be passed to Google that Google could recognize as personally identifiable information (PII), and no data you collect using Google Analytics may reveal any sensitive information about a user, or identify them. If you need to delete data from the Analytics servers for any reason, you can schedule a data-deletion request or use the User Deletion API.

What is HIPAA and to whom does it apply?

The Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA) ☑ is a US federal law that applies to HIPAA-regulated entities. The law and its implementing regulations typically are not relevant to Google Analytics customers operating exclusively outside of the US, nor are they relevant to every customer operating within the US. Analytics customers are responsible for determining whether they are HIPAA-regulated entities and what their obligations are under HIPAA.

Can Google Analytics be used in compliance with HIPAA?

Customers must refrain from using Google Analytics in any way that may create obligations under HIPAA for Google. HIPAA-regulated entities using Google Analytics must refrain from exposing to Google any data that may be considered Protected Health Information (PHI), even if not expressly described as PII in Google's contracts and policies. Google makes no representations that Google Analytics satisfies HIPAA requirements and does not offer Business Associate Agreements in connection with this service.

For HIPAA-regulated entities looking to determine how to configure Google Analytics on their properties, the HHS bulletin ☑ provides specific guidance on when data may and may not qualify as PHI. Here are some additional steps you should take to ensure your use of Google Analytics is permissible:

- Customers who are subject to HIPAA must not use Google Analytics in any way that implicates Google's access to, or collection of, PHI, and may only use Google Analytics on pages that are not HIPAA-covered.

- Authenticated pages are likely to be HIPAA-covered and customers should not set Google Analytics tags on those pages.

- Unauthenticated pages that are related to the provision of health care services, including as described in the HHS bulletin, are more likely to be HIPAA-covered, and customers should not set Google Analytics tags on HIPAA-covered pages..

- Please work with your legal team to identify pages on your site that do not relate to the provision of health care services, so that your configuration of Google Analytics does not result in the collection of PHI.

230.   Although Google asks developers to "work with your legal team" to figure out how to use Google Analytics in a way that complies with HIPAA, Google itself has the capability to make these determinations using its own systems.

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231.   As described above, Google has a crawler that scrapes and analyzes the content of every website and webpage that is scanned for inclusion in its search results. After analyzing each page, the Google crawler categorizes it and the content contained within it. For this purpose, Google maintains detailed content categorizations for websites and webpages, including categorizations related specifically to Health Information and Health Care Providers.

232.   Despite making promises that Google will endeavor to prevent abuse of its systems, and that it will not collect or monetize Health Information, Google does not make use of its actual systems to prevent the collection of Health Information from Health Care Providers. Instead, Google permits and encourages Health Care Providers to use the same tools as any other advertiser or publisher to enable Google to collect Health Information – and to use such information for purposes of targeted advertising, including remarketing and targeting to health keywords on Google's search engine, www.Google.com, on its Display Ad network, YouTube, and YouTube TV.

K.   Patients' Health Information Has Actual and Measurable Monetary Value

233.   The value of personal data, including the Health Information at issue in this case, is well understood and generally accepted as a form of currency.

234.   Indeed, the existence of a robust market for personal data is well-recognized in news and academia.[98] For example, a 2015 article from TechCrunch accurately noted: "Data has become a strategic asset that allows companies to acquire or maintain a competitive edge."[99] Notably, the value of a single Internet user—or really, a single user's data—varied from about $15 to more than $40.[100]

235.   The Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development ("OECD"), an

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[98] *See, e.g. The world's most valuable resource is no longer oil, but data*, The Economist (May 6, 2017), https://www.economist.com/leaders/2017/05/06/the-worlds-most-valuable-resource-is-no-longer-oil-but-data (comparing the digital market for user data to be analogous to the oil industry); Shoshanna Zuboff, *The Age of Surveillance Capitalism,* 166 (2019) (explaining that revenue from user data pervades every economic transaction in the modern economy); Schwartz, Paul M., *Harvard Law Review*, (noting "personal information is an important currency in the new millennium" and that "[t]he monetary value of personal data is large and still growing….Companies view this information as a corporate asset and have invested heavily in software that facilitates the collection of consumer information").

[99] Pauline Glickman and Nicolas Glady, *What's the Value of Your Data?* TechCrunch (Oct. 13, 2015), https://techcrunch.com/2015/10/13/whats-the-value-of-your-data/ (last visited May 16, 2023).

[100] *Id.*

intergovernmental organization with 38 member countries (including the United States), has published numerous volumes discussing how to value data such as that which is the subject matter of this Complaint, including as early as 2013, with its publication "Exploring the Economic of Personal Data: A Survey of Methodologies for Measuring Monetary Value".[101] The OECD recognizes that data is a key competitive input not only in the digital economy but in all markets: "Big data now represents a core economic asset that can create significant competitive advantage for firms and drive innovation and growth."[102]

236. As explained by Professors Acquisti, Taylor and Wagman in their 2016 article The Economics of Privacy:

> Such vast amounts of collected data have obvious and substantial economic value. Individuals' traits and attributes (such as a person's age, address, gender, income, preferences, and reservation prices, but also her clickthroughs, comments posted online, photos uploaded to social media, and so forth) are increasingly regarded as business assets that can be used to target services or offers, provide relevant advertising, or be traded with other parties.[103]

237. There is also a private market for users' personal information. One study by content marketing agency Fractl has found that an individual's online identity, including hacked financial accounts, can be sold for $1,200 on the dark web.[104] These rates are assumed to be discounted because they do not operate in competitive markets, but rather, in an illegal marketplace. If a criminal can sell other users' content, surely users can sell their own. In short, there is economic value to users' data

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[101] *Exploring the Economic of Personal Data: A Survey of Methodologies for Measuring Monetary Value*, OECD Digital Economy Paper No. 220 at 7 (Apr. 2, 2013), http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/5k486qtxldmq-en (last visited May 16, 2023).

[102] *Supporting Investment in Knowledge Capital, Growth and Innovation*, OECD, at 319 (Oct. 13, 2013), https://www.oecd-ilibrary.org/industry-and-services/supporting-investment-in-knowledge-capital-growth-and-innovation_9789264193307-en (last visited May 16, 2023).

[103] Alessandro Acquisti, Curtis Taylor, and Liad Wagman, *The Economics of Privacy*, 54 J. of Econ. Literature 2, at 444 (June 2016), https://www.heinz.cmu.edu/~acquisti/papers/AcquistiTaylorWagman-JEL-2016.pdf (last visited May 16, 2023).

[104] Maria LaMagna, *The sad truth about how much your Google data is worth on the dark web*, MarketWatch (June 6, 2018), https://www.marketwatch.com/story/spooked-by-the-Google-privacy-violations-this-is-how-much-your-personal-data-is-worth-on-the-dark-web-2018-03-20 (last visited May 16, 2023).

1 that is greater than zero. The exact number will be a matter for experts to determine.

2 **1.   License Value**

3   238.   Further, the ability to monetize personal information does not lie solely within "big

4 data." Today, individuals can also monetize the value of their personal information. There are now

5 market exchanges where individual users, like Plaintiffs and Class Members, can sell or monetize

6 their own data.

7   239.   For example, Nielsen Data and Mobile Computer will pay users for their data.[105]

8   240.   Similarly, Google itself has launched programs that pay users for their data.[106] This

9 includes a program called Screenwise -- an opt-in panel that can be installed on the Chrome Browser

10 and permit Google to track and record individuals' browsing history in exchange for payment.[107]

11   241.   Likewise, apps such as Zynn, a TikTok competitor, pay users for to sign up and

12 interact with the app.[108]

13   242.   Google's services are not free. Rather than pay with cash, Google users pay for

14 Google's services by agreeing to provide Google with the right to collect certain data, the "data

15 license."

16   243.   Google's "data license" rights to collect data about its users is not unlimited.

17   244.   The "data license" for Google's services is defined by law and Google's contract.

18   245.   By law, Google may not collect Health Information about users without express

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20 [105] Kevin Mercandante, *Ten Apps for Selling Your Data for Cash*, Best Wallet Hacks (June 10, 2020), https://wallethacks.com/apps-for-selling-your-data/ (last visited May 16, 2023).

21 [106] Kari Paul, *Google launches app that will pay users for their data*, The Guardian (June 11, 2019), https://www.theguardian.com/technology/2019/jun/11/Google-user-data-app-privacy-study   (last
22 visited May 16, 2023); Saheli Roy Choudhury and Ryan Browne, *Google pays teens to install an app that   could   collect   all   kinds   of   data*, CNBC (Jan. 30, 2019),
23 https://www.cnbc.com/2019/01/29/Google-paying-users-to-install-app-to-collect-data-techcrunch.html (last visited May 16, 2023); Tim Bradshaw, *Google offers to pay users for their voice*
24 *recordings*, Financial Times (Feb. 21, 2020), https://www.ft.com/content/42f6b93c-54a4-11ea-8841-482eed0038b1 (last visited May 16, 2023).
25
26 [107] Jack Marshall, *Google Pays Users for Browsing Data*, DigiDay (Feb. 10, 2012), https://digiday.com/media/google-pays-users-for-browsing-data/ (last visited May 16, 2023).

27 [108] Jacob Kastrenakes, *A New TikTok Clone hit the top of the App Store by Paying users to watch videos*, The Verge (May 29, 2020), https://www.theverge.com/2020/5/29/21274994/zynn-tiktok-
28 clone-pay-watch-videos-kuaishou-bytedance-rival.

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1   informed consent on a form separate from the contract of adhesion that Google presents to users.

2   Where Health Information is collected for marketing purposes, the legal requirements for its

3   collection and use are even more stringent.

4   246.   Other limitations on the "data license" paid for Google's services are outlined by the

5   Google contract.

6   247.   The "data license" includes data that Google users provide when signing up for Google

7   and when using Google platforms on Google's properties – subject to limitations in Google's

8   contract.

9   248.   The "data license" also includes data that Google specifically discloses as part of the

10   "data license" in the Google contract documents, and that Google does not specifically exclude from

11   the "data license" as part of the contract.

12   249.   As described above, the "data license" to become a Google user does not include

13   individual health information associated with a Google user and their Health Care Provider or other

14   covered entities under federal and state health privacy laws.

15   250.   Although not included in the contract, Google collects this additional data anyway,

16   thereby overcharging Plaintiffs and Class Members for use of Google's services.

17   251.   The "data license" overcharge that Google collects without authorization, and the

18   collected data, has monetary value.

19   252.   For example, a 2015 study found respondents placed a value of $59.80 on health

20   information:

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Passwords (login details)	$75.8
Health condition	$59.8
Social Security number *	$55.7
Payment details (credit card)	$36.0
Credit history	$29.2
Names of friends & family members	$23.5
Purchase histories	$20.6
Physical location (GPS)	$16.1
School or employer	$13.3
Home address	$12.9
Photos & videos	$12.2
Hobbies, tastes & preferences	$12.2
Marital status	$8.3
Email address	$8.0
Browser settings & histories	$7.1
Special dates including date of birth	$5.9
Phone numbers	$5.9
Name	$3.9
Gender	$2.9

$0.0 $10.0 $20.0 $30.0 $40.0 $50.0 $60.0 $70.0 $80.0

* This response was only available for US participants

253. In addition, some companies sell de-identified health information in the open market. For example, a company named Prognos Health provides a data platform where it purports to sell information from "more than 325 million de-identified patients."[109]

254. Google obtains substantial revenues from the collection and use of private health data for targeted ads.

255. In its Annual Form 10-K for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2022, filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission, Google reported total advertising revenue of

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[109] Prognos Health, *Prognos Health Announces Patent-Pending Technology* (Apr. 6, 2021), https://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/prognos-health-announces-patent-pending-technology-301263364.html (last visited May 16, 2023).

$224,473,000,000 for 2022, with 48% of this revenue attributable to United States users.[110]

256.   A 2019 study calculated the value of Americans' personal information gathered and used by Google to be $15.3 billion in 2016, $18.1 billion in 2017, and $21.5 billion in 2018.[111]

257.   Google and several other companies have products through which they pay consumers for a license to track certain information. Google, Nielsen, UpVoice, HoneyGain, and SavvyConnect are all companies that pay for browsing history information.

258.   Ipsos, a global market research company,[112] conducted a consumer research study called "Screenwise" on behalf of Google to learn "how people use the internet[.]"[113]

259.   The Screenwise study paid participants $20 for qualifying for the study, an additional $100 if the participant joined and installed a special WiFi router, and an additional $16 per month for each household member who joined with their device.[114]

260.   Because Americans typically do not want to sell their individually identifiable health information for any purpose and it is illegal to even share it without express, written authorization, there are fewer open markets for a license to collect or sell individually identifiable health information for non-health purposes than other types of data. However, black markets do exist for such data. It has been reported that health data can be "more expensive than stolen credit card numbers" on black markets.[115]

261.   While the exact value of Plaintiffs' and Class Members' Health Information in this

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[110]   Alphabet, 2022 Form 10-K, p. 59, https://abc.xyz/investor/static/pdf/20230203_alphabet_10K.pdf?cache=5ae4398 (last visited May 16, 2023).

[111] Robert Shapiro and Siddhartha Aneja, *Who Owns Americans' Personal Information and What Is It Worth?*, Future Majority (April 2019), https://www.sonecon.com/docs/studies/Report_on_the_Value_of_Peoples_Personal_Data-Shapiro-Aneja-Future_Majority-March_2019.pdf (last visited May 16, 2023).

[112] Ipsos, *Key Figures*, https://www.ipsos.com/en/key-figures (last visited May 16, 2023).

[113] Ipsos, *Ipsos Screenwise Panel*, https://screenwisepanel.com/ (last visited May 16, 2023).

[114] *Id.*

[115] Aarti Shahani, *The Black Market For Stolen Health Care Data*, NPR: All Tech Considered (Feb. 13, 2015 4:55 am ET), https://www.npr.org/sections/alltechconsidered/2015/02/13/385901377/the-black-market-for-stolen-health-care-data (last visited May 16, 2023).

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action will be a matter for expert determination, it is clear that the information has substantial value.

2.   Individuals Have a Protectable Property Interest in Their Health Information.

262.   Property is the right of any person to possess, use, enjoy, or dispose of a thing, including intangible things like data and communications.

263.   The Health Information at issue here is property under California law. *See, e.g. Calhoun, et al. v. Google, LLC*, 526 F. Supp. 3d. 605, 635 (N.D. Cal. 2021) ("users have a property interest in their personal information"); *People v. Kwok*, 75 Cal. App. 4th 1236, 1251 (1998) (property includes a copy of a key that is made without the key owner's knowledge when the original is returned to the owner, "which is analogous to making … an unauthorized copy of computer data").[116]

264.   Indeed, federal and state law grant patients the right to protect the confidentiality of data that identifies them as patients of a particular health care provider and restrict the use of their health data, including their status as a patient, to only uses related to their care or otherwise authorized by federal or state law in the absence of patient authorization. *See, e.g.* HIPAA, CMIA, CCPA.

265.   Likewise, American courts have long recognized common law property rights in the content of a person's communications that are not to be used or disclosed to others without authorization. *See, e.g.* ECPA; Title III (the Pen Register Act); *Folsom v. Marsh*, 9 F.Cas. 342, 346 (C.C.D. Mass. 1841) (recognizing common law information property rights) (Story, J); *Baker v. Libbie*, 210 Mass. 599, 602 (1912) (same); *Denis v. LeClerc*, 1 Mart. (La.) 297 (1811) (same).

266.   Google's taking of individuals' Health Information without authorization is done in violation of individuals' protected property interest in this information. It is an unlawful taking – larceny – under California law regardless of whether and to what extent Google monetized the data,

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[116] *See also Fields v. Michael*, 91 Cal. App. 2d 443, 449 (1949) ("[t]he word property may be properly used to signify any valuable right or interest protected by law"); *Downing v. Municipal Court*, 88 Cal. App. 2d 345, 359 (1948) (same); *Yuba River Power Co. v. Nevada Irr. Dist*., 207 Cal. 521, 523 (1920) ("[t]he term property is sufficiently comprehensive to include every species of estate, real and person, and everything which one person can own and transfer to another. It extends to every species of right and interest capable of being enjoyed as such upon which it is practicable to place a money value"); *People v. Kozlowski*, 96 Cal. App. 4th 853, 866 (2002) ("[t]he term [property] is all-embracing, including every intangible benefit and prerogative susceptible of possession or disposition").

and individuals have a right to disgorgement and/or restitution damages for the value of the stolen data.

267.   In addition, with respect to Google Account Holders, who entered into contractual agreements with Google, they have suffered benefit of the bargain damages in that Google took more data than the parties agreed would be exchanged. Those benefit of the bargain damages also include, but are not limited to: (i) loss of the promised benefits of their Google Account Holder experience; (ii) out-of-pocket costs; and (iii) loss of control over property which has marketable value.

V.   CLASS ACTION ALLEGATIONS

268.   Plaintiffs file this as a class action on behalf of themselves and the following class and subclass:[117]

> **ALL U.S. HEALTH USER CLASS** – All persons in the United States whose Health Information was obtained by Google from their Health Care Provider.
>
> **GOOGLE ACCOUNT HOLDER SUBCLASS** – All Google Account Holders in the United States whose Health Information was obtained by Google from their Health Care Provider.

269.   Excluded from the Class are the Court and its personnel and the Defendant and its officers, directors, employees, affiliates, legal representatives, predecessors, successors and assigns, and any entity in which any of them has a controlling interest.

270.   The members of the Class are so numerous that joinder is impracticable.

271.   Common questions of law and fact are apt to drive resolution of the case, exist as to all members of the Class and predominate over any questions affecting solely individual members of the Class including, but not limited to, the following:

        a.   Whether Google unlawfully collects Health Information;

        b.   Whether Google uses Health Information for advertising purposes;

        c.   Whether the Google Terms of Service includes binding contractual promises;

        d.   Whether the Google Privacy Policy includes binding contractual promises;

        e.   Whether Google's tracking, collection and/or monetization of Health

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[117] Plaintiffs reserve the right to modify the Class and Subclass Definition at the class certification stage or as otherwise instructed by the Court.

1   Information constitutes a breach of contract with Google Account Holders;

2   f.   Whether Google had legal authorization to acquire Class Members Health

3   Information;

4   g.   Whether Class Members have a reasonable expectation of privacy over their

5   Health Information;

6   h.   Whether Google's tracking, collection, and/or monetization of Health

7   Information constitutes highly offensive conduct;

8   i.   Whether the Health Information at issue is "content" under the ECPA;

9   j.   Whether the Health Information at issue has economic value; and

10   k.   Whether Google unjustly profited from the conduct alleged herein.

11   272.   Plaintiffs' claims are typical of the claims of other Class Members, as all members of

12 the Classes were similarly affected by Google's wrongful conduct in violation of federal and

13 California law, as complained of herein.

14   273.   Plaintiffs will fairly and adequately protect the interests of the members of the Classes

15 and have retained counsel that is competent and experienced in class action litigation. Plaintiffs have

16 no interests that conflict with, or are otherwise antagonistic to, the interests of other Class Members.

17   274.   A class action is superior to all other available methods for the fair and efficient

18 adjudication of this controversy since joinder of all members is impracticable. Further, as the damages

19 that individual Class Members have suffered may be relatively small, the expense and burden of

20 individual litigation make it impossible for members of the Class to individually redress the wrongs

21 done to them. There will be no difficulty in management of this action as a class action.

22 **VI.   TOLLING**

23   275.   Any applicable statute of limitations has been tolled by Defendant's knowing and

24 active concealment of the conduct and misrepresentations and omissions alleged herein. Through no

25 fault or lack of diligence, Plaintiffs and members of the Classes were deceived and could not

26 reasonably discover Defendant's deception and unlawful conduct.

27   276.   Plaintiffs and members of the Classes did not discover and did not know of any facts

28 that would have caused a reasonable person to suspect that Defendant was acting unlawfully and in

the manner alleged herein. As alleged herein, the representations made by Google were material to Plaintiffs and members of the Classes at all relevant times. Within the time period of any applicable statutes of limitations, Plaintiffs and members of the Classes could not have discovered through the exercise of reasonable diligence the alleged wrongful conduct.

277.   At all times, Defendant is and was under a continuous duty to disclose to Plaintiffs and members of the Classes the true nature of the disclosures being made and the lack of an actual "requirement" before the data was shared with it.

278.   Defendant knowingly, actively, affirmatively and/or negligently concealed the facts alleged herein. Plaintiffs and members of the Classes reasonably relied on Defendant's concealment.

279.   For these reasons, all applicable statutes of limitation have been tolled based on the discovery rule and Defendant's concealment, and Defendant is estopped from relying on any statutes of limitations in defense of this action.

VII.   CAUSES OF ACTION

COUNT ONE

VIOLATION OF THE ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS PRIVACY ACT

(On Behalf of All Classes)

280.   Plaintiffs hereby incorporate all other paragraphs as if fully stated herein.

281.   The ECPA prohibits the intentional interception of the contents of any electronic communication. 18 U.S.C. § 2511.

282.   The ECPA protects both the sending and receiving of communications and provides a private right of action to any person whose electronic communications are intercepted. *See* 18 U.S.C. § 2520(a).

283.   Google intentionally intercepted Plaintiffs' and Class Members' Health Information on their Health Care Providers' web properties where the Google Source Code was present.

284.   Google's acquisition of Health Information was contemporaneous with their making.

285.   As alleged herein, the transmissions of Health Information between Plaintiffs and Class Members and their Health Care Providers qualify as content of communications under the ECPA's definition at 18 U.S.C. § 2510(12). The intercepted communications included, but are not

1   limited to: the content of patient registrations, the content of patients' access to and communications

2   with their Health Care Provider within authenticated patient portals; and the content of patients'

3   access to and communications with their Health Care Provider on unauthenticated web pages, which

4   include communications relating to specific doctors, symptoms, conditions, treatments, prescription

5   drugs, and request for appointments.

6   286.   The following constitute "devices" within the meaning of 18 U.S.C. § 2510(5):

7   a.   The Google Cookies used to track patients' communications;

8   b.   Patients' browsers;

9   c.   Patients' computing devices;

10   d.   Google's web-servers;

11   e.   The web-servers of Health Care Providers' web properties where the Google

12   Source Code was present; and

13   f.   The Google Source Code deployed by Google to effectuate its acquisition of

14   patient communications.

15   287.   Google is not a party to Plaintiffs' and Class Members' communications with their

16   Health Care Providers.

17   288.   Google intercepted and received Plaintiffs' and Class Members' Health Information

18   through the surreptitious redirection from Plaintiffs' and Class Members' computing devices to

19   Google via the Google Source Code.

20   289.   Neither Google nor the Health Care Providers obtained Plaintiffs' and Class Members'

21   lawful consent or authorization for Google's acquisition of Health Information.

22   290.   Google did not require any Health Care Provider to obtain lawful rights to share

23   Plaintiffs' and Class Members' Health Information with Google.

24   291.   Any purported consent that Google received from Health Care Providers to obtain

25   Plaintiffs' and Class Members' Health Information was not valid.

26   292.   In acquiring Plaintiffs' and Class Members' Health Information, Google had a purpose

27   that was tortious, criminal, and designed to violate constitutional and statutory provisions including,

28   but not limited to:

a.   The unauthorized acquisition of individually identifiable health information is tortious in and of itself regardless of whether the means deployed to acquire the information violates the Wiretap act or any subsequent purpose or use for the acquisition. Google intentionally committed a tortious act by acquiring individually identifiable health information without authorization to do so;

b.   The unauthorized acquisition of individually identifiable health information is a criminal violation of 42 U.S.C. § 1320d-6 regardless of any subsequent purpose or use of the individually identifiable health information. Google intentionally violated 42 U.S.C. § 1320d-6 by intentionally acquiring individually identifiable health information without authorization;

c.   A violation of HIPAA, particularly 42 U.S.C. § 1320d-6, which is a criminal offensive punishable by fine or imprisonment with *increased penalties* where "the offense is committed with intent to sell, transfer, or use individually identifiable health information for commercial advantage [or] personal gain." Google intentionally violated the enhanced penalty provision of 42 U.S.C. § 1320d-6 by acquiring the individually identifiable health information "with intent to sell transfer or use" it for "commercial advantage [or] personal gain.";

d.   A knowing intrusion upon Plaintiffs' and Class Members' seclusion;

e.   Trespass upon Plaintiffs' and Class Members' personal and private property via the placement of Google Cookies associated with the domains and patient portals for their Health Care Providers and covered entities on Plaintiffs' and Class Members' personal computing devices;

f.   Violation of the California Unfair Competition Law;

g.   Violation of the California Constitution's right to privacy, Section 1 of Article I of the California Constitution;

h.   Violation of various state privacy statutes including, but not limited to, the California Confidentiality of Medical Information Act; the California

Consumer Privacy Act; the California Invasion of Privacy Act, and Cal. Civ. Code § 1798.91;

      i.   Violation of various state computer privacy and property statutes, including but not limited to the California Comprehensive Computer Data Access and Fraud Act, Cal. Penal Code § 502; and,

      j.   Violation of Cal. Penal Code § 484 for statutory larceny.

293.   Any purported consent provided by Health Care Providers had a purpose that was tortious, criminal, and in violation of state constitutional provisions, in that such conduct by the Health Care Provider constitutes:

      a.   A knowing intrusion into a private place, conversation, or matter that would be highly offensive to a reasonable person;

      b.   A violation of HIPAA, 42 U.S.C. § 1320d-6, which is a criminal offense punishable by fine or imprisonment and that includes increased penalties where "the offense is committed with intent to sell, transfer, or use individually identifiable health information for commercial advantage [or] personal gain";

      c.   Trespass;

      d.   Breach of fiduciary duty; and

      e.   Violation of various state privacy statutes including, but not limited to, the California Confidentiality of Medical Information Act; the California Consumer Privacy Act; the California Invasion of Privacy Act; and Cal. Civ. Code § 1798.91.

294.   Google knows that its collection of Health Information from Health Care Providers is unlawful and tortious and provides public proof of such knowledge with its webpage titled, *HIPAA and Google Analytics*, which expressly states: "[c]ustomer[s] must refrain from using Google Analytics in any way that may create obligations under HIPAA for Google" and that "Google makes no representations that Google Analytics satisfies HIPAA requirements and does not offer Business Associate Agreements in connection with this service." Google further sates that:

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a. "Customers who are subject to HIPAA must not use Google Analytics in any way that implicates Google's access to, or collection of [protected health information], and may only use Google Analytics on pages that are not HIPAA-covered.";

b. "Authenticated pages are likely to be HIPAA-covered and customers should not set Google Analytics tags on those pages."; and

c. "Unauthenticated pages that are related to the provision of health care services, including as described in the HHS bulletin, are more likely to be HIPAA-covered, and customers should not set Google Analytics tags on HIPAA-covered pages."

295.   Despite these statements, Google takes no further actions to identify and prevent the collection of Health Information from Health Care Providers. Instead, Google tracks, collects, and monetizes Health Information with full knowledge that it was collected in violation of HIPAA, which gives rise to criminal liability under 42 U.S.C. § 1320d-6, and various other state and common law torts and statutory causes of action listed herein.

296.   Google's violations of the ECPA were willful and intentional and caused Plaintiffs and Class Members the following damages:

a. The interruption or preclusion of Plaintiffs' and Class Members' ability to communicate with their Health Care Providers;

b. The diminution in value of Plaintiffs' and Class Members' Health Information;

c. The inability to use their computing devices for the purpose of communicating with their Health Care Providers;

d. The loss of privacy due to Google making sensitive and confidential information, such as patient status, medical issues, and appointments, that Plaintiffs and Class Members intended to remain private no longer private; and

e. Google took something of value from Plaintiffs and Class Members and derived benefits therefrom without Plaintiffs' and Class Members' knowledge or informed consent and without Google sharing the benefit of such value.

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19.   For Google's violations set forth above, Plaintiffs and Class Members seek appropriate equitable and declaratory relief, including injunctive relief; actual damages and any profits made by Google as a result of its violations or the appropriate statutory measure of damages; punitive damages in an amount to be determined by a jury; and a reasonable attorney's fee and other litigation costs reasonably incurred pursuant to 18 U.S.C § 2520.

20.   Unless enjoined, Google will continue to commit the violations of law alleged here. Plaintiffs and Class Members want to continue to communicate with their Health Care Providers through online platforms but have no practical way of knowing if their communications are being intercepted by Google, and thus continue to be at risk of harm from Google's conduct.

297.   Pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 2520, Plaintiffs and Class Members seek monetary damages for the greater of (i) the sum of the actual damages suffered by the Plaintiffs and any profits made by Google as a result of the violation or (ii) statutory damages of whichever is greater of $100 a day for each violation or $10,000.

COUNT TWO

VIOLATION OF THE CALIFORNIA INVASION OF PRIVACY ACT

(On Behalf of All Classes)

298.   Plaintiffs hereby incorporate all other paragraphs as if fully stated herein.

299.   The California Invasion of Privacy Act (CIPA) is codified at Cal. Penal Code §§ 630-638. The Act begins with the following statement of purpose:

> The legislature hereby declares that advances in science and technology have led to the development of new devices and techniques for the purpose of eavesdropping upon private communications and that the invasion of privacy resulting from the continual and increasing use of such devices and techniques has created a serious threat to the free exercise of personal liberties and cannot be tolerated in a free and civilized society.

Cal. Penal Code § 630.

300.   Cal. Penal Code § 631(a) provides, in pertinent part:

> Any person who, by means of any machine, instrument, or contrivance, or in any other manner …. willfully and without the consent of all parties to the communication, or in any unauthorized manner, reads, or attempts to read, or to learn the contents or meaning of any message, report, or communication while the same is in transit

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1 or passing over any wire, line, or cable, or is being sent from, or received at any place within this state; or who uses, or attempts to use,
2 in any manner, or for any purpose, or to communicate in any way, any information so obtained, or who aids, agrees with, employs, or
3 conspires with any person or persons to lawfully do, or permit, or cause to be done any of the acts or things mentioned above in this
4 section, is punishable by a fine not exceeding two thousand five hundred dollars.

5 301. Cal. Penal Code § 632 provides, in pertinent part, that it is unlawful for any person

6 "intentionally and without the consent of all parties to a confidential communication," to "use[] [a]

7 recording device to … record the confidential communication."

8 302. As used in the statute, a "confidential communication" is:

9 any communication carried on in circumstances as may reasonably
10 indicate that any part to the communication desired it to be confined to the parties thereto[.]

11 303. Plaintiffs' and Class Members' Health Information, which was communicated with

12 their Health Care Providers, constitutes confidential communications within the meaning of CIPA.

13 304. Google is a "person" within the meaning of CIPA §§ 631 and 632.

14 305. Google is headquartered in California, designed and contrived and effectuated its

15 scheme to track, collect, share and sell Plaintiffs' and Class Members' Health Information from

16 California, and has adopted California substantive law to govern its relationship with users.

17 306. Google did not have the prior consent or authorization of all parties to obtain Plaintiffs'

18 and Class Members' Health Information exchange with their Health Care Providers, which includes

19 the contents or record of their confidential communications.

20 307. Google's actions were designed to learn or attempt to learn the contents of Plaintiffs'

21 and Class Members' electronic communications with their Health Care Providers.

22 308. Google's learning of or attempt to learn of the contents of Plaintiffs' and Class

23 Members' electronic communications with Health Care Providers occurred while the

24 communications were in transit or in the process of being sent or received.

25 309. Unless enjoined, Google will continue to commit the violations of law alleged here.

26 Plaintiffs continue to want to communicate with their Health Care Providers and covered entities

27 through online platforms but have no practical way of knowing if their communications are being

28 intercepted by Google, and thus continue to be at risk of harm from Google's conduct.

310.   Plaintiffs and Class Members seek all relief available under Cal. Penal Code § 637.2, including injunctive relief and statutory damages of $5,000 per violation.

COUNT THREE

CALIFORNIA CONSTITUTIONAL INVASION OF PRIVACY

(On Behalf of All Classes)

311.   Plaintiffs hereby incorporate all other paragraphs as if fully stated herein.

312.   Article I, section 1 of the California Constitution provides:

> *All people* are by nature free and independent and *have inalienable rights. Among these are* enjoying and defending life and liberty, acquiring, possessing, and protecting property, and *pursuing and obtaining* safety, happiness, and *privacy*.

Cal. Const. art. I, § 1 (emphasis added).

313.   Plaintiffs and Class Members have both an interest in precluding the dissemination and misuse of their health information by Google, and in making intimate personal decisions and communicating with Health Care Providers without observation, intrusion or interference by Google.

314.   Plaintiffs and Class Members had no knowledge of and did not consent or authorize Google to obtain their Health Information as described herein.

315.   Plaintiffs and Class Members enjoyed objectively reasonable expectations of privacy surrounding their Health Information and communications devices used to exchange communications with their Health Care Providers, as evidenced by, among other things, federal, state and common laws that uphold the confidentiality of such information and that require lawful consent prior to disclosure.

316.   Plaintiffs' and Class Members' claims are based on Google's unauthorized access to their Health Information as alleged herein, which includes but is not limited to:

    a.   Plaintiffs' and Class Members' status as patients of a particular Health Care Provider;

    b.   Plaintiffs' and Class Members' communications while logged-in to "authenticated" pages on the Health Care Provider web properties, including the specific and detailed content of such communications, such as search terms

1   and requests and responses for communications requesting information about

2   appointments, doctors, treatments, conditions, health insurance, prescription

3   drugs, and other Health Information;

4   c.   Plaintiffs' and Class Members' communications with their Health Care

5   Providers on "unauthenticated" portions of those properties, including the

6   specific and detailed content of such communications, such as search terms

7   and requests and responses for communications requesting information about

8   appointments, doctors, treatments, conditions, health insurance, prescription

9   drugs, and other Health Information; and

10   d.   The ability to control and deny access to their communications devices while

11   exchanging communications with their Health Care Providers on authenticated

12   or unauthenticated pages.

13   317.   In addition to acquiring Health Information without authorization, Google violated

14 Plaintiffs' and Class Members' right to privacy in their communications devices by configuring

15 Google Source Code to deposit and disguise Google Cookies as "first-party" cookies belonging to

16 Health Care Providers, when, in fact, they are third-party cookies belonging to Google.

17   318.   Google's conduct was intentional and intruded on Plaintiffs' and Class Members'

18 communications with their Health Care Providers, which constitute private conversations, matters,

19 and data.

20   319.   Google's conduct was highly offensive because, among things:

21   a.   Google conspired with Health Care Providers to violate a cardinal rule of the

22   provider-patient relationship;

23   b.   Google's conduct violated federal and state law designed to protect patient

24   privacy, including but not limited to HIPAA and the CMIA;

25   c.   Google's conduct violated the express promises it made to Google Account

26   Holders; and

27

28

CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT

d.   Google's conduct violated implied promises made to all users that it would not participate, enable, encourage, or profit from unlawful activity against Plaintiffs and Class Members.

320.   Google's invasion of Plaintiffs' and Class Members' privacy resulted in the following damages:

a.   Nominal damages for invasion of privacy;

b.   General damages for invasion of their privacy rights in an amount to be determined by a jury without reference to specific pecuniary harm;

c.   The interruption or preclusion of Plaintiffs' and Class Members' ability to communicate with their Health Care Providers on their Health Care Providers' websites;

d.   The diminution in value of Plaintiffs' and Class Members' Health Information;

e.   Plaintiffs' and Class Members' inability to use their computing devices for the purpose of communicating with their Health Care Providers;

f.   Sensitive and confidential information including patient status and appointments that Plaintiffs and Class Members intended to remain private are no longer private;

g.   Google eroded the essential confidential nature of the patient-provider relationship; and

h.   Google took something of value from Plaintiffs and Class Members and derived benefits therefrom without Plaintiffs' and Class Members' knowledge or informed consent and without sharing the benefit of such value.

<div align="center">

COUNT FOUR

INTRUSION UPON SECLUSION

(On Behalf of All Classes)

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321.   Plaintiffs hereby incorporate all other paragraphs as if fully stated herein.

322.   By collecting and using the contents of Plaintiffs' and Class members' communications with their Health Care Providers and covered entities without their knowledge,

1   Google intentionally intruded into a realm in which Plaintiffs and Class members have a reasonable

2   expectation of privacy.

3   323.   Plaintiffs and Class members enjoyed objectively reasonable expectations of privacy

4   in their communications with their medical providers and covered entities relating to the respective

5   patient portals, appointments, and health information and communications based on:

6   a.   The Health Care Providers' or covered entities' status as their Health Care

7   Providers or a covered entity and the reasonable expectations of privacy that

8   attach to patient-provider relationships;

9   b.   HIPAA;

10   c.   The ECPA;

11   d.   Google's promises that it will not use, or allow advertisers to use, Plaintiffs'

12   and Class members' health information for personalized advertising; and

13   e.   California medical and computer privacy laws.

14   324.   Furthermore, Plaintiffs and Class members maintained a reasonable expectation of

15   privacy when providing their patient medical data to their Health Care Providers and covered entities

16   and when communicating with their Health Care Providers and covered entities online.

17   325.   Patient medical data is widely recognized by society as sensitive information that

18   cannot be shared with third parties without the patients' consent.

19   326.   For example, polling shows that "[n]inety-seven percent of Americans believe that

20   doctors, hospitals, labs ad health technology systems should not be allowed to share or sell their

21   sensitive health information without consent."[118]

22   327.   Google obtained unwanted access to Plaintiffs' and Class members' data, including

23   but not limited to their patient status, the dates and times Plaintiffs and Class members logged in or

24   out of patient portals, and the communications Plaintiffs and Class members exchanged while logged

25   int to patient portals.

26   328.   Google's intrusion was accomplished by placing the _ga, _gid, __gcl_au, NID, IDE,

27   ―――――――――――――
    [118] *Poll: Huge majorities want control over health info*, Healthcare Finance (Now. 10, 2020),
28   https://www.healthcarefinancenews.com/news/poll-huge-majorities-want-control-over-health-info.

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DSID, and direct Google Account cookies on Plaintiffs' and Class members' computing devices through the web-servers of Plaintiffs' and Class members' Health Care Providers.

329.   By disguising the _ga, _gid, and _gcl_au cookies as first-party cookies from Plaintiffs' Health Care Providers or covered entities, Google ensures that it can hack its way around attempts that Plaintiffs and Class members might make to prevent Google's tracking through the use of cookie blockers.

330.   In designing cookies as disguised first-party cookies, Google was aware that, like other websites that include sections where users sign in to an account, any Health Care Provider or covered entity website with a patient portal would require first-party cookies to be enabled for a patient to access the patient portal or other username / password protected 'secure' part of the Health Care Provider's website.

331.   With first-party cookies being required for use of a patient portal and the Google cookies disguised as first-party cookies, Google was able to implant its tracking device on the computing devices of Plaintiffs and Class Members even where Plaintiffs or Class Members made attempts to stop third-party tracking through the use of cookie blockers.

332.   Google's deployment of cookies as third-party cookies disguised as first-party cookies that are placed on Plaintiffs' and Class members' computing devices are a highly offensive intrusion upon seclusion regardless of whether any information was further redirected form Plaintiffs' or Class Members' computing devices to Google.

333.   Google's intrusion into Plaintiffs' and Class Members' privacy would be highly offensive to a reasonable person, namely because it occurred without Plaintiffs' and Class Members' consent or knowledge.

334.   Google's intrusion caused Plaintiffs and Class Members the following damages:

      a.   Nominal damages;

      b.   The interruption or preclusion of Plaintiffs' and Class Members' ability to communicate with their Health Care Providers or covered entities on their Health Care Providers' or covered entity websites;

c.   The diminution in value of Plaintiffs' and Class Members' protected health information;

d.   The inability to use their computing devices for the purpose of communicating with their Health Care Providers or covered entities;

e.   The loss of privacy due to Google making sensitive and confidential information such as patient status and appointments that Plaintiffs and Class Members intended to remain private no longer private; and

f.   Google took something of value from Plaintiffs and Class Members and derived benefits therefrom without Plaintiffs' and Class Members' knowledge or informed consent and without Google sharing the benefit of such value.

335.   Google's intrusion into Plaintiffs' and Class Members' seclusion was with oppression, fraud, or malice.

336.   For Google's intrusion into their seclusion, Plaintiffs and Class Members seek actual damages, compensatory damages, restitution, disgorgement, general damages, nominal damages, unjust enrichment, punitive damages, and any other relief the Court deems just.

COUNT FIVE

VIOLATION OF CALIFORNIA'S UNFAIR COMPETITION LAW

(Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code §§ 17200, *et seq*.)

(On Behalf of All Classes)

337.   Plaintiffs hereby incorporate all other paragraphs as if fully stated herein.

338.   California Business and Professions Code, Section 17200, ("UCL") prohibits any "unlawful, unfair, or fraudulent business act or practice and unfair, deceptive, untrue or misleading advertising . . . ."

339.   Google engaged in unlawful and unfair business acts and practices in violation of the UCL.

340.   Unlawful: Google has engaged in unlawful acts or practices in that the conduct alleged herein constitutes violations of, among other things:

a.   California Constitution's right to privacy:

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1   b.   the ECPA:

2   c.   HIPAA, including specifically 42 U.S.C. § 1320d-6; and

3   d.   California health and computer privacy statutes, including but not limited to

4   the California Confidentiality of Medical Information Act; the California

5   Consumer Privacy Act; and the California Invasion of Privacy Act, and Cal.

6   Civ. Code § 1798.91.

7   341.   <u>Unfair</u>: Google engaged in unfair acts and practices in that Google claims that it

8 requires businesses to "have lawful rights to collect, use, and share [Plaintiffs' and Class Members']

9 [Health Information] before providing any data" to Google, but in reality knows (or should have

10 known) that the Google Source Code and advertising products are being improperly used on Health

11 Care Provider websites resulting in the wrongful, contemporaneous, redirection to Google of

12 Plaintiffs' and Class Members' Health Information without their knowledge or consent.

13   342.   Google's conduct as alleged herein offends public policy.

14   343.   Google's conduct, misrepresentations and omissions have also impaired competition

15 within the health care market in that Google's conduct prevented Plaintiffs and Class Members from

16 making fully informed decisions about whether to communicate online with their Health Care

17 Providers and to use their Health Care Providers' website in the first instance.

18   344.   Plaintiffs and Class Members suffered an injury in fact, including the loss of money

19 and/or property, as a result of Google's unfair, unlawful and deceptive practices. Plaintiffs' and Class

20 Members' Health Information has undeniable value as demonstrated by the fact that Google is able

21 to use and sell this information within its various advertising systems. While only an identifiable

22 "trifle" of injury is needed to be shown, as set forth herein Plaintiffs, Class Members, and the public

23 at large value their Health Information at more than a "trifle" amount. And Google's disclosure of

24 this confidential and valuable information has now diminished the value of such information to

25 Plaintiffs and Class Members.

26   345.   Google's actions caused damage to and loss of Plaintiffs' and Class Members'

27 property right to control the dissemination and use of their Health Information.

28   346.   Plaintiffs and Class Members relied on Google's representation that it requires

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1 businesses to "have lawful rights to collect, use, and share [Plaintiffs' and Class Members'] data

2 before providing any data" to Google.

3   347.   Google's representation that it requires businesses to "have lawful rights to collect,

4 use, and share [Plaintiffs' and Class Members'] data before providing any data" to Google was untrue.

5   348.   Had Plaintiffs and Class Members known the truth of Google's conduct, they would

6 not have used the Health Care Provider websites.

7   349.   The wrongful acts alleged herein occurred, and continues to occur, in the conduct of

8 Google's business. Google's misconduct is part of a pattern or generalized course of conduct that is

9 still perpetuated and repeated in the State of California.

10   350.   Plaintiffs and Class Members want to continue using their Health Care Providers'

11 websites to communicate with their Health Care Providers, request and set appointments, and

12 complete other tasks that necessary to access health care services and maintain their health.

13   351.   If it does not change its practices, Google will continue to contemporaneously obtain

14 Plaintiffs' and Class Members' Health Information.

15   352.   Plaintiffs and Class Members will have no way to discern, while using their current or

16 future Health Care Providers' websites, whether Google is contemporaneously obtaining their

17 individually identifiable health information and communications.

18   353.   In addition, because the Google Cookies masquerade as a first party cookies to evade

19 third party cookie blockers, Plaintiffs and Class Members cannot manually block Google Cookies so

20 as to protect the confidentiality of their data and communications.

21   354.   As a result, the threat of future injuries identical to those that Google has already

22 inflicted on Plaintiffs and Class Members is actual and imminent for Plaintiffs and Class Members.

23   355.   Plaintiffs and Class Members request that this Court enjoin Google from continuing

24 its unfair, unlawful, and deceptive practices and to restore to Plaintiffs and Class Members, in the

25 form of restitution, any money Google acquired through its unfair, unlawful, and deceptive practices.

26   356.   The injuries of Plaintiffs and Class Members cannot be wholly remedied by monetary

27 relief and such remedies at law are inadequate.

28

COUNT SIX

TRESPASS TO CHATTELS

(On Behalf of All Classes)

357. Plaintiffs hereby incorporate all other paragraphs as if fully stated herein.

358. At all times relevant, Plaintiffs owned, leased, occupied, and/or controlled their computing devices and their homes and/or businesses from which they communicated with their Health Care Providers.

359. The Google Source Code is designed such that when Plaintiffs and Class Members visit their Health Care Providers' web properties Google Cookies are automatically set upon Plaintiffs' and Class Members' computing devices.

360. The Google Cookies are designed to avoid any attempts by Plaintiffs and Class Members to block transmissions to Google because the Google Cookies are disguised as first-party cookies. Thus, Google Source Code is able to place the Google Cookies on Plaintiffs and Class Members' computing devices regardless of whether Plaintiffs or Class Members have attempted to block third-party cookies.

361. The consequence of this false "first party" cookie designation to Plaintiffs and Class Members is that, for security purposes, Plaintiffs and Class Members must enable first- party cookies to communicate with their Health Care Providers web properties. As a result of this, every patient who accessed a patient portal for a Health Care Provider that deployed the Google Source Code had Google Cookies lodged on their computing device.

362. Plaintiffs' and Class Members' communications with Health Care Providers occurred while they were in their own homes and businesses. As a result, Google's actions to lodge Google cookies on their computing devices also had the impact of entering Plaintiffs' and Class Members' private property through their computer connections.

363. Google's placement of Google Cookies associated with Plaintiffs' and Class Members' communications on Health Care Providers' websites was done intentionally and without Plaintiffs' and Class Members' knowledge or authorization.

364. Plaintiffs' and Class Members' computing devices derive value from their ability to

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1   facilitate communications with their Health Care Providers.

2   365.   Google's placement of Google Cookies results in the persistent and unavoidable

3   interception of Plaintiffs' and Class Members' communications with Health Care Providers, which

4   deprives Plaintiffs and Class Members of the full value of using their computing devices for such

5   communications.

6   366.   Plaintiffs' and Class Members' devices are useless for exchanging private

7   communications with Health Care Providers where Google Source Code is deployed on the Health

8   Care Providers' web property.

9   367.   Google's trespass into Plaintiffs' and Class Members' computing devices, and their

10   homes and businesses where their devices were located, resulted in harm to Plaintiffs and Class

11   Members and caused the following damages:

12   a.   Nominal damages for trespass;

13   b.   Reduction of storage, disk space, and performance of Plaintiffs' and Class

14   Members computing devices;

15   c.   Loss of value of Plaintiffs' and Class Members' computing devices; and

16   d.   The total deprivation of Plaintiffs' and Class Members' use of their computing

17   devices to communicate with Health Care Providers.

18   368.   Google's repeated interception of Plaintiffs' and Class Members' Health Information,

19   knowingly done without consent, is evidence of Google's malicious disregard of Plaintiffs' and Class

20   Members' property rights.

21   369.   For Google's trespass, Plaintiffs and Class Members seek nominal damages, actual

22   damages, general damages, unjust enrichment, punitive damages, and any other relief the Court

23   deems just.

24   **COUNT SEVEN**

25   **STATUTORY LARCENY**

26   **(Cal. Penal Code §§ 484 and 496)**

27   **(On Behalf of All Classes)**

28   370.   Plaintiffs hereby incorporate all other paragraphs as if fully stated herein.

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371.   California Penal Code section 496(a) prohibits the obtaining of property "in any manner constituting theft."

372.   California Penal Code section 484 defines "theft," and provides that:

> Every person who shall feloniously steal, take, carry, lead, or drive away the personal property of another, or who shall fraudulently appropriate property which has been entrusted to him or her, or who shall knowingly and designedly, by any false representation or pretense, defraud any other person of money, labor or real or personal property, or who causes or procures others to report falsely of his or her wealth or mercantile character and by thus imposing upon any person, obtains credit and thereby fraudulently gets or obtains possession of money, or property or obtains the labor or service of another, is guilty of theft.

373.   Section 484 thus defines "theft" to include stealing or taking personal property of another or by obtaining property by false pretense.

374.   Google acted in a manner constituting theft and/or false pretense.

375.   Google stole, took, and fraudulently appropriated Plaintiffs' and Class Members' Health Information without their consent.

376.   Google concealed, aided in the concealing, sold and/or utilized Plaintiffs' and Class Members' Health Information for Google's commercial purposes and financial benefit.

377.   Google knew that Plaintiffs' and Class Members' Health Information was stolen and/or unlawfully obtained because Google designed the Google Source Code that intercepted and redirected Plaintiffs' and Class Members' Health Information from their Health Care Providers to Google, and Google operated it in a manner that was intended to conceal or withhold its existence from Plaintiffs and Class Members.

378.   The reasonable and fair market value of the unlawfully obtained Health Information can be determined in the marketplace and by examining the unjust enrichment Google received by using the unlawfully collected information for marketing purposes.

379.   As a direct and proximate result of Google's conduct, Plaintiffs and Class Members suffered injuries including but not limited to:

      a.   Treble the value of the Health Information that was stolen, as permitted by Cal. Penal Code § 496(c);

1   b.   Treble the amount of general privacy damages from the highly offensive nature

2   of the theft, as permitted by Cal. Penal Code § 496(c);

3   c.   Treble the loss of value to their computing devices from the inability to use

4   those devices for communicating with their Health Care Providers or covered

5   entities;

6   d.   The costs of bringing suit; and

7   e.   Reasonable attorney's fees.

8   380.   Plaintiffs seek declaratory and injunctive relief, and reserve the right to amend to seek

9   actual or statutory damages if Google does not cure these violations within 30 days of receiving

10   notice.

11   **COUNT EIGHT**

12   **CALIFORNIA COMPREHENSIVE COMPUTER DATA ACCESS AND FRAUD ACT**

13   **(Cal. Penal Code § 502)**

14   **(On Behalf of All Classes)**

15   381.   Plaintiffs hereby incorporate all other paragraphs as if fully stated herein.

16   382.   The California Comprehensive Computer Data Access and Fraud Act (CDAFA) was

17   enacted to provide protection from "tampering, interference, damage, and unauthorized access to

18   lawfully created computer data and computer systems." Cal. Penal Code § 502(a).

19   383.   The CDAFA affords a private right of action to owners of computers, systems,

20   networks, programs, and data who suffer as a result of a violation of the Act. Cal. Penal Code §

21   502(e)(1).

22   384.   The CDAFA imposes civil liability on anyone who:

23   a.   Knowingly accesses and without permission alters, damages, destroys, or

24   otherwise uses any data, computer, computer system, or computer network in

25   order to either (A) devise or execute any scheme or artifice to defraud, deceive,

26   or extort, or (B) wrongfully control or obtain money, property, or data. Cal.

27   Penal Code § 502(c)(1);

28

    b.   Knowingly accesses and without permission takes, copies, or makes use of any data from a computer, computer system, or computer network, or takes or copies any supporting documentation, whether existing or residing internal or external to a computer, computer system, or computer network. Cal. Penal Code § 502(c)(2);

    c.   Knowingly and without permission uses or causes to be used computer services. Cal. Penal Code § 502(c)(3);

    d.   Knowingly and without permission provides or assists in providing a means of accessing a computer, computer system, or computer network in violation of this section. Cal. Penal Code § 502(c)(6);

    e.   Knowingly and without permission accesses or causes to be accessed any computer, computer system, or computer network. Cal. Penal Code § 502(c)(7); and

    f.   Knowingly introduces any computer contaminant into any computer, computer system, or computer network. Cal. Penal Code § 502(c)(8).

385.   "Computer services" under the CDAFA "includes, but is not limited to, computer time, data processing, or storage functions, or other uses of a computer, computer system, or computer network." Cal. Penal Code § 502(b)(4).

386.   "Computer network" is "any system that provides communications between one or more computer systems and input/output devices, including, but not limited to, display terminals, remote systems, mobile devices, and printers connected by telecommunication facilities." Cal. Penal Code § 502(b)(2).

387.   "Computer system" is "a device or collection of devices, including support devices…one or more of which contain computer programs, electronic instructions, input data, and output data, that performs functions, including, but not limited to, logic, arithmetic, data storage and retrieval, communication, and control." Cal. Penal Code § 502(b)(5).

388.   "Data" is defined as "a representation of information, knowledge, facts, concepts, computer software, or computer programs or instructions" that "may be in any form, in storage media,

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1   or as stored in the memory of the computer or in transit or presented on a display device." Cal. Penal

2   Code § 502(b)(8).

3   389.   "Computer contaminant" means "any set of computer instructions that are designed to

4   modify, damage, destroy, record, or transmit information within a computer, computer system, or

5   computer network without the intent of the owner of the information. They include, but are not limited

6   to, a group of computer instructions commonly called viruses or worms, that are self-replicating or

7   self-propagating and are designed to contaminate other computer programs or computer data,

8   consumer computer resources, modify, destroy, record, or transmit data, or in some other fashion

9   usurp the normal operation of the computer, computer system, or computer network." Cal. Penal

10   Code § 502(b)(12).

11   390.   Google's conduct, described herein, is in violation of Cal. Penal Code §§ 502(c)(1),

12   (2), (3), (6), (7), and (8).

13   391.   Plaintiffs and Class Members were the owners or lessees of the computers, computer

14   systems, computer networks, and data described herein.

15   392.   The Google Source Code constitutes a "contaminant" under the CDAFA because it is

16   designed to, and does, self-propagate to record and transmit data within users' computers, computer

17   systems, and computer networks that would not otherwise be transmitted in the normal operation of

18   the computers, computer systems, and computer networks.

19   393.   Google knowingly accessed, used, or caused to be used Plaintiffs and Class Members'

20   data, computers, computer services, and computer networks in that Google specifically designed the

21   Google Source Code to surreptitiously place Google Cookies on patients' computer browsers, which

22   causes the devices' data processing functions and networks to redirect Plaintiffs and Class Members'

23   Health Information to Google.

24   394.   Google knowingly introduced Google Source Code into Plaintiffs and Class

25   Members' computers, computer systems, and computer networks and provided Health Care Providers

26   with the means of accessing Plaintiffs and Class Members' computers, computer systems, and

27   computer networks in violation of the CDAFA by developing Google Source Code and encouraging

28   and providing instructions to Health Care Providers on its use.

395.   Plaintiffs and Class Members' Health Information that Google redirects through the Google Source Code includes nonpublic information related to their communications with Health Care Providers.

396.   Google makes use of Plaintiffs and Class Members' Health Information to obtain money through advertising.

397.   Google's use of Plaintiffs and Class Members' Health Information is wrongful in that the use is prohibited by state and federal laws and Google's own policies, including but not limited to:

      a.   The Federal wiretap Act, 18 U.S.C. §§ 2510 *et seq*;

      b.   The California Invasion of Privacy Act, Cal. Penal Code §§ 631 & 632;

      c.   The California Unfair Competition Law, Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code § 17200;

      d.   Google's Terms of Service and Google's Privacy Policy; and

      e.   State law causes of actions for negligent misrepresentation, trespass, and invasion of privacy.

398.   Google's use and access of Plaintiffs and Class Members' data, computers, computer services, and computer networks, and Google's introduction of Google Source Code into Plaintiffs and Class Members' computers, computer services, and computer networks is without permission because:

      a.   Plaintiffs and Class Members never authorized Google to place Google cookies on their browser or otherwise access or use their data, computers, computer services, and computer networks;

      b.   The Google source code was invisible to Plaintiffs and Class Members;

      c.   Plaintiffs and Class Members were unaware that Google was using the Google Source Code to surreptitiously access and use their data, computers, computer services, and computer networks;

      d.   It was impossible for Plaintiffs and Class Members to opt-out of or prevent the functionality of the Google Source Code;

1   e. Google's own policies prohibit Google from accessing and using Plaintiffs and

2   Class Members' Health Information; and

3   f. Google circumvented technical and code-based barriers to access and use

4   Plaintiffs and Class Members' data, computers, computer services, and

5   computer networks. The Google source code places Google cookies on

6   Plaintiffs and Class Members' computing devices, which is designed to

7   disguise itself as a cookie from first-party Health Care Providers so that

8   Google can circumvent cookie blockers and other technical barriers.

9 399. Plaintiffs and Class Members' Health Information that Google accesses and uses is

10 not publicly viewable and only became accessible to Google through Google's surreptitious and

11 unauthorized placement of Google Cookies on Plaintiffs and Class Members' computing devices.

12 400. Google's violations of the CDAFA have injured Plaintiffs and Class Members through

13 damages and losses that include but are not limited to:

14   a. The interruption or preclusion of Plaintiffs and Class Members' ability to

15   communicate with their Health Care Providers' web properties;

16   b. Damaged relationships with Health Care Providers;

17   c. Resources expended to investigate and respond to Google's violations;

18   d. The diminution in value of Plaintiffs and Class Members' Health Information;

19   and

20   e. Inability to use their computing devices for the purpose of communicating with

21   their Health Care Providers.

22 401. As a result of Google's violations of the CDAFA, Plaintiffs and Class Members

23 suffered damages including but not limited to:

24   a. The interruption or preclusion of their ability to communicate with their Health

25   Care Providers on their Health Care Providers' web properties;

26   b. The diminution in value of Plaintiffs' and Class Members' Health Information;

27   and

28

1   c.   The inability of Plaintiffs to use their computing devices for the purpose of

2   communication with their Health Care Providers.

3   402.   Google's violations of the CDAFA were willful, fraudulent, or oppressive.

4   403.   For Google's violations of the CDAFA, Plaintiffs and Class Members seek actual

5   damages, general damages, unjust enrichment, punitive damages, appropriate injunctive or other

6   equitable relief pursuant to Cal. Penal Code § 502(e)(1) and any other relief the Court deems just.

7   404.   Pursuant to Cal. Penal Code § 502(e)(2), Plaintiffs and Class Members also ask the

8   Court to award them their reasonable attorney's fees.

9   **COUNT NINE**

10   **AIDING AND ABETTING**

11   **(On Behalf of All Classes)**

12   405.   Plaintiffs hereby incorporate all other paragraphs as if fully stated herein.

13   406.   At all times relevant, Plaintiffs' and Class Members' Health Care Providers owed

14   Plaintiffs and Class Members a duty under federal and state law to maintain the confidentiality of

15   Plaintiffs' and Class Members' Health Information.

16   407.   These duties emanate from HIPAA, the Hippocratic Oath, the California

17   Constitutional right to privacy, the California CMIA, CIPA, the ECPA, the patient-provider

18   relationship, and other state and federal laws.

19   408.   Pursuant to these duties, Plaintiffs' and Class Members' Health Care Providers were

20   prohibited from intercepting, redirecting, and divulging the contents of Plaintiffs' and Class

21   Members' Health Information.

22   409.   At all times relevant, Google had actual knowledge that: (1) Plaintiffs' and Class

23   Members' Health Care Providers had a duty to safeguard the privacy of Plaintiffs' and Class

24   Members' Health Information; (2) Health Care Providers' disclosures of Plaintiffs' and Class

25   Members' Health Information would constitute a breach of this duty; and (3) Plaintiffs' and Class

26   Members' Health Care Providers were in fact breaching their duty to Plaintiffs and Class Members

27   by divulging Plaintiffs' and Class Members' Health Information to Google via the Google Source

28   Code.

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410.   Google provides the following on its Google Analytics web page: [119]

Customers must refrain from using Google Analytics in any way that may create obligations under HIPAA for Google. HIPAA-regulated entities using Google Analytics must refrain from exposing to Google any data that may be considered Protected Health Information (PHI), even if not expressly described as PII in Google's contracts and policies. Google makes no representations that Google Analytics satisfies HIPAA requirements and does not offer Business Associate Agreements in connection with this service.

411.   As alleged herein, Google also promises Plaintiffs and Class Members that their Health Information cannot be used for advertising purposes.

412.   Despite these statements, Google realizes that it receives substantial monetary benefits from its receipt of Plaintiffs' and Class Members' Health Information from Plaintiffs' and Class Members' Health Care Providers.

413.   In furtherance of its own financial benefit, Google disregards Plaintiffs' and Class Members' rights and aids and abets Health Care Providers in divulging the contents of Plaintiffs' and Class Members' Health Information, in violation of Article I, section 1 of the California Constitution.

414.   The Health Care Providers' conduct violates Plaintiffs' and Class Members' rights to privacy under the California Constitution in that:

a.   At all times, Plaintiffs' and Class Members' Health Care Providers were subject to California law pursuant to Google's contracts governing use of the Google Source Code;

b.   By collecting and disseminating the contents of Plaintiffs' and Class Members' Health Information without Plaintiffs' and Class Members' knowledge, the Health Care Providers intruded into a realm in which Plaintiffs and Class Members have a reasonable expectation of privacy;

c.   Plaintiffs and Class Members enjoyed objectively reasonable expectations of privacy in their Health Information based on the patient-provider relationship, HIPAA, the ECPA, CIPA, CMIA, and society's wide recognition of medical

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[119]   Google   Analytics   Help,   *HIPAA   and   Google   Analytics*, https://support.google.com/analytics/answer/13297105?hl=en (last visited May 4, 2023).

1   information as sensitive information that cannot be shared with third parties

2   without patients' consent;

3   d.   The Health Care Providers intruded into Plaintiffs' and Class Members'

4   seclusion by intercepting and disclosing Plaintiffs' and Class Members' Health

5   Information to Google;

6   e.   The Health Care Providers disseminated Plaintiffs' and Class Members'

7   private facts, i.e., their Health Information, for which there is no legitimate

8   public concern;

9   f.   The intrusion and dissemination would be highly offensive to a reasonable

10   person because it occurred without Plaintiffs' and Class Members' consent or

11   knowledge; and

12   g.   The intrusion and dissemination caused and continue to cause Plaintiffs and

13   Class Members damages, including:

14   1.   Nominal damages;

15   2.   The interruption of preclusion of Plaintiffs' and Class Members' ability

16   to communicate with their Health Care Providers on their Health Care

17   Providers' websites;

18   3.   The diminution in value of Plaintiffs' and Class Members' protected

19   health information;

20   4.   The inability to use their computing devices for the purposes of

21   communicating with their Health Care Providers;

22   5.   The loss of privacy in their medical information; and

23   6.   Health Care Providers took something of value from Plaintiffs and

24   Class Members and derived benefits therefrom without Plaintiffs' and

25   Class Members' knowledge or informed consent and without sharing

26   the benefits of such value with Plaintiffs and Class Members.

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415.   Google consciously participates in Health Care Providers' tortious conduct by providing substantial assistance to Health Care Providers for the specific purpose of aiding and abetting the disclosure of Plaintiffs' private Health Information.

416.   Specifically, Google designed the Google Source Code to:

   a.   be hidden in Health Care Providers' web properties;

   b.   circumvent Plaintiffs' and Class Members third-party cookie blockers; and

   c.   commandeer Plaintiffs' and Class Members' browsers to cause the interception, redirection, and disclosure of Plaintiffs' and Class Members' healthcare communications.

417.   In addition, Google substantially assists and encourages Health Care Providers' unlawful conduct by facilitating the monetization of Plaintiffs' and Class Members' Health Information by:

   a.   Encouraging and enabling Health Care Providers to link Plaintiffs' and Class Members' health data to other Google advertising products through which Google collects Plaintiffs' and Class Members' information;

   b.   Encouraging and enabling Health Care Providers to use remarketing audiences based on Plaintiffs' and Class Members' health data;

   c.   Utilizing health categories for personalized advertising and permitting other advertisers to do the same; and

   d.   Creating a certification process to expressly permit health advertisements based on Plaintiffs' and Class Members' Health Information,[120] including targeted advertisements for prescriptions drugs and addiction services.[121]

418.   Google's conduct was and is done with the specific intent of aiding and abetting Health Care Providers in disclosing Plaintiffs' and Class Members' Health Information.

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[120] *Id.*

[121] Google, *Apply for Healthcare-Related Advertising*, https://support.google.com/google-ads/troubleshooter/6099627 (last visited May 16, 2023).

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419.   In sum, Google has created a highly lucrative market for Plaintiffs' and Class Members' Health Information and facilitates every aspect of that market, including the interception and its own use of Health Information for advertising purposes. Google does so with actual knowledge that the Health Information involved is unlawfully obtained and used in violation of Plaintiffs' rights.

420.   Separately considered from Health Care Providers' conduct, Google's conduct in intercepting, using, and intruding on Plaintiffs' and Class Members' Health Information constitutes a breach of duty to Plaintiffs and Class Members under the ECPA, the California Constitution, CIPA, California's Unfair Competition Law, the California CMIA, the California Computer Data Access and Fraud Act, and Google's contractual promises to Plaintiffs.

421.   The assistance and encouragement that Google provides to Plaintiffs' and Class Members' Health Care Providers is a substantial factor in causing the harm that Plaintiffs suffered and continue to suffer.

422.   Google's conduct was with oppression, fraud, or malice.

423.   For Google's aiding and abetting of Health Care Providers' tortious conduct, Plaintiffs and Class Members seek actual damages, compensatory damages, restitution, disgorgement, general damages, nominal damages, unjust enrichment, punitive damages, and any other relief the Court deems just.

COUNT TEN

BREACH OF EXPRESS CONTRACT

(On behalf of the Subclass of Google Account Holders)

424.   Plaintiffs hereby incorporate all prior paragraphs as if fully stated herein.

425.   An express contract was created between Google, on the one hand, and Plaintiffs and Class Members, on the other hand, whereby Google offered to provide Plaintiffs and Class Members with Google services (including but not limited to Gmail, YouTube, and YouTube TV) provided that Plaintiffs and Class Members agree to Google's Terms of Service and Privacy Policy.

426.   When a person signs up for a Google Account, Google requires users to state that they agree to the Google Terms of Service and Google Privacy Policy.

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427.   The Google Terms of Service is binding on Google and Google Account Holders.

428.   The Google Privacy Policy is binding on Google and Google Account Holders.

429.   The Google Terms of Service and Google Privacy Policy are drafted exclusively by Google.

430.   The Google Terms of Service and Privacy Policy are offered on a take-it-or-leave-it basis to consumers.

431.   The Google Terms of Service expressly adopt California law, declaring that, "California law will govern all disputes arising out of or relating to these terms, service-specific additional terms, or any related services, regardless of conflict of laws rules."

432.   The Google Terms of Service expressly incorporates the Google Privacy Policy, declaring, "You also agree that our Privacy Policy applies to your use of our services."

433.   Plaintiffs and Class Members did all they were required to do under the contracts.

434.   Google's Terms of Service and the Google Privacy Policy contain terms stating that Google will ensure compliance with applicable laws, respect and protect privacy rights, not collect Health Information without individuals' consent, and not use Health Information for purposes of personalized advertising.

435.   As set forth above and below, Google makes and breaks twelve different promises:

GOOGLE TERMS OF SERVICE	
No. 1	Google promises that it "want[s] to maintain a respectful environment for everyone, which means you [i.e. individuals and businesses that use Google products and services] must follow [] basic rules of conduct," which includes "compl[ing] with applicable laws," "respect[ing] the rights of others, including privacy and intellectual property rights," and refraining from "abuse of harm [to] others…for example, by misleading [or] defrauding…others."
GOOGLE PRIVACY POLICY	
No. 2	Under the sub-heading *Categories of information we collect,* the Google Privacy specifically identifies "health information" as a distinct category of information, and explains that its collection of this information is limited to only when a person "choose[s] to provide it":

	Health information *if you choose to provide it,* such as your medical history, vital signs and health metrics (like blood glucose levels), and other similar information related to your physical or mental health, in the course of using Google services that offer health-related features, such as the Google Health Studies app.
No. 3	Under the sub-heading *Why Google Collects Data,* the Google Privacy Policy promises that Google "do[es] [not] show you personalized ads based on sensitive categories, such as race, religion, sexual orientation, or *health*."
No. 4	The Google Privacy Policy defines "sensitive categories" as follows: "When showing you personalized ads, we use topics that we think might be of interest to you based on your activity. For example, you may see ads for things like 'Cooking and Recipes' or 'Air Travel.' *We don't use topics or show personalized ads based on sensitive categories like race, religion, sexual orientation, or health. And we require the same from advertisers that use our services.*"
No. 5	In the above definition of sensitive categories, the hyperlinked text require the same from advertisers takes individuals to document titled *Personalized advertising*, in which Google promises that it prohibits advertising based on: • "Restricted drug terms," such as "prescription medications and information about prescription medications, unless the medication and any listed ingredient are only intended for animal use and are not prone to human abuse or other misuse;" and • "personal health content," such as "physical or mental health conditions, including diseases, sexual health, and chronic health conditions"; "[p]roducts, services, or procedures to treat or manage chronic health conditions…"; "any health issues associated with intimate body parts or functions…"; "invasive medical procedures"; and, "[d]isabilities, even when content is oriented toward the user's primary caretaker."
No. 6	The Google Privacy Policy references a document titled *What happens if you violate our policies* page, in which Google promises: "Remarketing lists that don't follow the Personalized advertising policy may be disabled, meaning that these lists can no longer be used with ad campaigns, and new users won't be added to the lists. List creation restrictions may apply to both individual web pages and entire websites or apps."
No. 7	The Google Privacy Policy promises that Google will "protect [users] against security threats, abuse, and illegal activity" by "us[ing] … information to detect, prevent, and respond to security incidents, and for protecting against other malicious, deceptive, fraudulent or illegal activity."
No. 8	The Google Privacy Policy contains a link to "Learn more about how Google uses data when you use our partners' sites or apps." This link takes users to Google's Privacy & Terms page. On the Google Privacy & Terms page, under the sub-tab *Technologies,*" Google promises: "Google uses the information shared by sites and apps to … protect against fraud and abuse[.]"

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No. 9	The Google Privacy Policy references a document titled *Safeguarding your data*, in which Google promises: "Laws protecting user privacy such as the European Economic Area's General Data Protection Regulation and other privacy laws that establish various rights for applicable US-state residents impact content publishers, application developers, website visitors, and application users…. Google is committed to protecting data confidentiality and security."
No. 10	The Google Privacy Policy references a document titled *What happens if you violate our policies*, in which Google promises users that, "[t]o ensure a safe and positive experience for users, Google requires that advertisers comply with all applicable laws and regulations in addition to the Google Ads policies. Ads, assets, destinations, and other content that violate these policies can be blocked on the Google Ads platform and associated networks."
No. 11	Also on the *What happens if you violate our policies* page, Google promises it will take corrective and punitive actions against advertisers and publishers that do not comply, including immediate suspension for egregious violations, which, in turn, is defined to included unlawful activity.
No. 12	The Google Privacy Policy references a document titled *Legal requirements*, in which Google promises: "We expect all advertisers to comply with the local laws for any area their ads target, in addition to the standard Google Ads policies. We generally err on the side of caution in applying this policy because we don't want to allow content of questionable legality."

436.   Promise No. 1: The Google Terms of Service states that Google "want[s] to maintain a respectful environment for everyone, which means you [i.e. individuals and businesses that use Google products and services] must follow [] basic rules of conduct," which includes "compl[ing] with applicable laws," "respect[ing] the rights of others, including privacy and intellectual property rights," and refraining from "abuse of harm [to] others…for example, by misleading [or] defrauding…others." *Id.* at p. 4. Google therefore promises individuals that it *requires* that any person or business using Google products to comply with applicable law, respect privacy rights, and refrain from misleading or fraudulent conduct.

437.   Google breached promise No. 1 because it does not *require* Health Care Providers to comply with applicable law, to respect privacy rights, or to refrain from engaging in misleading or fraudulent conduct in the unlawful tracking, collection and disclosure to Google of patients' Health Information. To the contrary, Google fails to use its systems to detect, deter, or prevent its collection

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1 of Health Information from Health Care Providers.

2   438.   Promise No. 2: Under the sub-heading *Categories of information we collect,* the

3 Google Privacy Policy specifically identifies "health information" as a distinct category of

4 information, and explains that its collection of this information is limited to only when a person

5 "choose[s] to provide it":

6   **Health information** *if you choose to provide it,* such as your medical
        history, vital signs and health metrics (like blood glucose levels), and other

7   similar information related to your physical or mental health, in the course
        of using Google services that offer health-related features, such as the

8   Google Health Studies app.

9 Google Privacy Policy at p. 18 (bolded emphasis in original) (italicized emphasis added).

10   439.   Google violates this promise by collecting Health Information that patients do not

11 choose to provide.

12   440.   Promise No. 3: Under the sub-heading *Why Google Collects Data,* the Google Privacy

13 Policy promises that Google "do[es] [not] show you personalized ads based on sensitive categories,

14 such as race, religion, sexual orientation, or *health.*" Google Privacy Policy at p. 6 (emphasis added).

15   441.   Promise No. 4: The Google Privacy Policy defines "sensitive categories" as follows:

16   "When showing you personalized ads, we use topics that we think might be of interest to you

17   based on your activity. For example, you may see ads for things like 'Cooking and Recipes'

18   or 'Air Travel.' *We don't use topics or show personalized ads based on sensitive categories*

19   *like race, religion, sexual orientation, or health. And we require the same from advertisers*

20   *that use our services.*"

21 Google Privacy Policy at p. 30 (hyperlink in original).

22   442.   Promise No. 5: In the above definition of sensitive categories, the hyperlinked text

23 require the same from advertisers takes individuals to document titled *Personalized advertising*, in

24 which Google promises that it prohibits advertising based on:[122]

25

26

27   [122]   Google   Advertising   Policies   Help,   *Personalized   Advertising*,

28 https://support.google.com/adspolicy/answer/143465?hl=en (last visited May 4, 2023).

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(a) "Restricted drug terms," such as "prescription medications and information about prescription medications, unless the medication and any listed ingredient are only intended for animal use and are not prone to human abuse or other misuse;" and

(b) "personal health content," such as "physical or mental health conditions, including diseases, sexual health, and chronic health conditions"; "[p]roducts, services, or procedures to treat or manage chronic health conditions…"; "any health issues associated with intimate body parts or functions…"; "invasive medical procedures"; and, "[d]isabilities, even when content is oriented toward the user's primary caretaker."

443.   Promise No. 6: The Google Privacy Policy references a document titled *What happens if you violate our policies*, in which Google promises: "Remarketing lists that don't follow the Personalized advertising policy may be disabled, meaning that these lists can no longer be used with ad campaigns, and new users won't be added to the lists. List creation restrictions may apply to both individual web pages and entire websites or apps."[123]

444.   Google breaches Promise Nos. 3-6 because it does, in fact: use Health Information to shows ads based on sensitive categories, like health; does not prevent its advertisers from using and showing targeted ads based on sensitive categories, like health; permits targeting and advertising based on restricted drug terms and personal health content; and, does not disable remarketing lists that fail to comply with Google's personalized advertising policy (i.e. prohibition on the use of showing of personalized ads based on sensitive categories).

445.   Promise No. 7: The Google Privacy Policy promises that Google will "protect [users] against security threats, abuse, and illegal activity" by "us[ing] … information to detect, prevent and respond to security incidents, and for protecting against other malicious, deceptive, fraudulent or illegal activity." Google Privacy Policy at p. 19.

446.   Promise No. 8: The Google Privacy Policy contains a link to "Learn more about how Google uses data when you use our partners' sites or apps." Google Privacy Policy at p. 33. This link takes users to Google's Privacy & Terms page.[124] On the Google Privacy & Terms page, under the

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[123] Google Advertising Policies Help, *What Happens if You Violate Our Policies*, https://support.google.com/adspolicy/answer/7187501? (last visited May 4, 2023).

[124] Google Privacy & Terms, *Technologies*, https://policies.google.com/technologies/partner-sites (last visited May 9, 2023). The Google Privacy Policy has consistently linked to the *Safeguarding Your Data* document since December 18, 2017.

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sub-tab *Technologies*," Google promises: "Google uses the information shared by sites and apps to … protect against fraud and abuse[.]"[125]

447.   Promise No. 9: The Google Privacy Policy references a document titled *Safeguarding your data*, in which Google promises: "Laws protecting user privacy such as the European Economic Area's General Data Protection Regulation and other privacy laws that establish various rights for applicable US-state residents impact content publishers, application developers, website visitors, and application users…. Google is committed to protecting data confidentiality and security."[126]

448.   Promise No. 10: The Google Privacy Policy references a document titled *What happens if you violate our policies*, in which Google promises users that, "[t]o ensure a safe and positive experience for users, Google requires that advertisers comply with all applicable laws and regulations in addition to the Google Ads policies. Ads, assets, destinations, and other content that violate these policies can be blocked on the Google Ads platform and associated networks"[127]

449.   Promise No. 11: Also on the *What happens if you violate our policies* page, Google promises it will take corrective and punitive actions against advertisers and publishers that do not comply, including suspending an advertiser account: [128]

> "Accounts may be suspended if we find violations of our policies or the Terms and Conditions. If we detect an egregious violation, your account will be suspended immediately and without prior warning. ***An egregious violation of the Google Ads policies is a violation so serious that it is unlawful*** or poses significant harm to our users or our digital advertising ecosystem. Egregious violations often reflect that the advertiser's overall business does not adhere to Google Ads policies or that one violation is so severe that we cannot risk future

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[125] Google Privacy & Terms, *Technologies – How Google Uses Information From Sites or Apps That Use Our Services*, https://policies.google.com/technologies/partner-sites?hl=en-US (last visited May 8, 2023).

[126] Google Analytics Help, *Safeguarding Your Data*, https://support.google.com/analytics/answer/6004245?hl=en (last visited May 4, 2023). The Google Privacy Policy has consistently linked to the *Safeguarding Your Data* document since May 25, 2018.

[127] Google Advertising Policies Help, *What Happens if You Violate Our Policies*, https://support.google.com/adspolicy/answer/7187501? (last visited May 4, 2023).

[128] *Id.* (emphasis added).

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1 exposure to our users. Given that egregious violations will result in immediate account

2 suspension, upon detection and without prior warning, we limit these to cases when such

3 action is the only effective method to adequately prevent illegal activity and/or significant

4 user harm."

5 450.   Promise No. 12: The Google Privacy Policy references a document titled *Legal*

6 *requirements*, in which Google promises: "We expect all advertisers to comply with the local laws

7 for any area their ads target, in addition to the standard Google Ads policies. We generally err on the

8 side of caution in applying this policy because we don't want to allow content of questionable

9 legality."[129]

10 451.   Google violates Promise Nos. 7-12 because it does not protect users against violations

11 of law, privacy, and/or misleading and fraudulent conduct. Google does not require Health Care

12 Providers to comply with applicable law, to respect privacy rights, or to refrain from engaging in

13 misleading or fraudulent conduct in the unlawful tracking, collection and disclosure to Google of

14 patients' Health Information, nor does it use its systems to prevent these abuses. Further, Google does

15 not take action to stop, suspend, or discipline itself or a Health Care Provider for unlawful conduct

16 (which under Google's own definition constitutes "egregious conduct") involving Google's

17 collection of Health Information from Health Care Providers; and, it does not "err on the side caution"

18 in enforcing these commitments, but instead, creates a system that facilitates the use and showing of

19 targeted advertising based on sensitive categories, like health.

20 452.   Google also violates Promise Nos. 7-12 because the Google Source Code deposits

21 Google Cookies on a patient's device which are disguised as first-party cookies and, thus can and do

22 track a given patient or browser across unrelated websites. Further, Google can and does link the

23 Health Information collected, including the Health Information collected and re-directed to Google

24 Analytics, across its various systems and products to be used in its advertising services.

25 453.   Google maintains developer pages instructing advertisers on how to breach the

26 specific promises relating to Health Information.

27

28 [129] Google, *Legal Requirements*, https://support.google.com/adspolicy/answer/6023676?.

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454.   Google's breach of its promise not to use Health Information or permit advertisers to use Health Information occurs through Google Analytics, Google Ads, Google Display Ads, and, YouTube, both directly on Google owned-and-operated properties (including Google.com, YouTube) and on non-Google web properties where Google advertising tools are deployed.

455.   Plaintiff John Doe I is a Google Account Holder who exchanged communications on his Health Care Provider's web property where Google Source Code was placed, which resulted in the tracking and acquisition of his Health Information by Google. Specifically, Plaintiff John Doe I is a patient of Gundersen Health System who exchanged communications with Gundersen at www.Gundersenhealth.org and with Gundersen's patient portal, at mychart.gundersenhealth.org. The Google Source Code was present on the Gundersen web property. The Google Source Code commanded Plaintiff John Doe I's identifiers and the content of his communications with Gundersen to be sent to Google for advertising purposes.

456.   Plaintiff John Doe II is a Google Account Holder who exchanged communications on Health Care Providers' web properties where Google Source Code was placed, which resulted in the tracking and acquisition of his Health Information by Google for advertising purposes. Specifically, Plaintiff John Doe II is a patient of MedStar who exchanged communications with MedStar at www.medstarhealth.org   and   with   the   MedStar   patient   portal   located   at www.medstarhealth.org/mymedstar-patient-portal. The Google Source Code was present on the MedStar web property. The Google Source Code commanded Plaintiff John Doe II's identifiers and the content of his communications with MedStar to be sent to Google for advertising purposes.

457.   The Health Information that Google obtained in breach of the contracts included:

      a.   Patient identifiers including, but not limited to, email addresses, IP addresses, persistent cookie identifiers, device identifiers, and browser fingerprint information;

      b.   the date and time of patient registrations for their Health Care Providers' patient portals;

      c.   log-in and log-out times for their Health Care Providers' patient portals;

      d.   the contents of communications that patients exchange inside their Health Care

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1   Providers' patient portals;

2   e.   the contents of communications relating to medical appointments;

3   f.   the contents of communications relating to prescription drugs;

4   g.   the contents of communications relating to health insurance; and,

5   h.   the user's status as a patient, subscriber, and/or user of their Health Care

6   Provider;

7   458. Google's breach caused Plaintiffs and Class Members the following damages:

8   a.   Nominal damages for breach of contract;

9   b.   General damages for invasion of their privacy rights in an amount to be

10   determined by a jury without reference to specific pecuniary harm;

11   c.   Sensitive and confidential information including patient status and

12   appointments that Plaintiffs and Class Members intended to remain private are

13   no longer private;

14   d.   Google eroded the essential confidential nature of the patient-provider

15   relationship;

16   e.   Google took something of value from Plaintiffs and Class Members and

17   derived benefits therefrom without Plaintiffs' and Class Members' knowledge

18   or informed consent and without sharing the benefit of such value; and,

19   f.   Benefit of the bargain damages in that Google's contract stated that payment

20   for the service would consist of a more limited set of collection of personal

21   information than that which Facebook actually charged.

22   **COUNT ELEVEN**

23   **BREACH OF IMPLIED CONTRACT**

24   **(On behalf of the Subclass of Google Account Holders)**

25   459. Plaintiffs hereby incorporate all other paragraphs as if fully stated herein.

26   460. To the extent the Google Terms of Service and Privacy Policy are not express

27 contracts, Plaintiffs allege, in the alternative, they are implied contracts.

28   461. An implied contract was created between Google, on the one hand, and Plaintiffs and

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Class Members, on the other hand, whereby Google offered to provide Plaintiffs and Class Members with Google services (including but not limited to Gmail, YouTube, and YouTube TV) while at the same time promising that it would not track, collect, or use Plaintiffs' and Class Members' Health Information, and provided that Plaintiffs and Class Members agree to Google's Terms of Service and agree that Google's Privacy Policy applies to their use of Google's services. Plaintiffs and Class Members accepted Google's offer by using Google's services instead of other similar services provided by others, and agreeing to its Terms and Privacy Policy.

462.   Google's Terms of Service and the Google Privacy Policy contain terms stating that Google will ensure compliance with applicable laws, respect and protect privacy rights, not collect Health Information without individuals' consent, and not use Health Information for purposes of personalized advertising.

463.   As set forth above and below, in offering its services, Google makes several promises to Google Account Holders:

GOOGLE TERMS OF SERVICE	
No. 1	Google promises that it "want[s] to maintain a respectful environment for everyone, which means you [i.e. individuals and businesses that use Google products and services] must follow [] basic rules of conduct," which includes "compl[ing] with applicable laws," "respect[ing] the rights of others, including privacy and intellectual property rights," and refraining from "abuse of harm [to] others…for example, by misleading [or] defrauding…others."
GOOGLE PRIVACY POLICY	
No. 2	Under the sub-heading *Categories of information we collect,* the Google Privacy specifically identifies "health information" as a distinct category of information, and explains that its collection of this information is limited to only when a person "choose[s] to provide it": **Health information** *if you choose to provide it,* such as your medical history, vital signs and health metrics (like blood glucose levels), and other similar information related to your physical or mental health, in the course of using Google services that offer health-related features, such as the Google Health Studies app.
No. 3	Under the sub-heading *Why Google Collects Data,* the Google Privacy Policy promises that Google "do[es] [not] show you personalized ads based on sensitive categories, such as race, religion, sexual orientation, or *health*."
No. 4	The Google Privacy Policy defines "sensitive categories" as follows:

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	"When showing you personalized ads, we use topics that we think might be of interest to you based on your activity. For example, you may see ads for things like 'Cooking and Recipes' or 'Air Travel.' *We don't use topics or show personalized ads based on sensitive categories like race, religion, sexual orientation, or health. And we require the same from advertisers that use our services.*"
No. 5	In the above definition of sensitive categories, the hyperlinked text require the same from advertisers takes individuals to document titled *Personalized advertising*, in which Google promises that it prohibits advertising based on: • "Restricted drug terms," such as "prescription medications and information about prescription medications, unless the medication and any listed ingredient are only intended for animal use and are not prone to human abuse or other misuse;" and • "personal health content," such as "physical or mental health conditions, including diseases, sexual health, and chronic health conditions"; "[p]roducts, services, or procedures to treat or manage chronic health conditions…"; "any health issues associated with intimate body parts or functions…"; "invasive medical procedures"; and, "[d]isabilities, even when content is oriented toward the user's primary caretaker."
No. 6	The Google Privacy Policy references a document titled *What happens if you violate our policies* page, in which Google promises: "Remarketing lists that don't follow the Personalized advertising policy may be disabled, meaning that these lists can no longer be used with ad campaigns, and new users won't be added to the lists. List creation restrictions may apply to both individual web pages and entire websites or apps."
No. 7	The Google Privacy Policy promises that Google will "protect [users] against security threats, abuse, and illegal activity" by "us[ing] … information to detect, prevent, and respond to security incidents, and for protecting against other malicious, deceptive, fraudulent or illegal activity."
No. 8	The Google Privacy Policy contains a link to "Learn more about how Google uses data when you use our partners' sites or apps." This link takes users to Google's Privacy & Terms page. On the Google Privacy & Terms page, under the sub-tab *Technologies*," Google promises: "Google uses the information shared by sites and apps to … protect against fraud and abuse[.]"
No. 9	The Google Privacy Policy references a document titled *Safeguarding your data*, in which Google promises: "Laws protecting user privacy such as the European Economic Area's General Data Protection Regulation and other privacy laws that establish various rights for applicable US-state residents impact content publishers, application developers, website visitors, and application users…. Google is committed to protecting data confidentiality and security."
No. 10	The Google Privacy Policy references a document titled *What happens if you violate our policies*, in which Google promises users that, "[t]o ensure a safe and positive experience

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	for users, Google requires that advertisers comply with all applicable laws and regulations in addition to the Google Ads policies. Ads, assets, destinations, and other content that violate these policies can be blocked on the Google Ads platform and associated networks."
No. 11	Also on the *What happens if you violate our policies* page, Google promises it will take corrective and punitive actions against advertisers and publishers that do not comply, including immediate suspension for egregious violations, which, in turn, is defined to included unlawful activity.
No. 12	The Google Privacy Policy references a document titled *Legal requirements*, in which Google promises: "We expect all advertisers to comply with the local laws for any area their ads target, in addition to the standard Google Ads policies. We generally err on the side of caution in applying this policy because we don't want to allow content of questionable legality."

Mutual Assent

464.   Such implied contract was created by virtue of the conduct of the parties, as well as the surrounding circumstances, including, but not limited to:

    a.   Google's express promises, as noted above;

    b.   Federal, State, and common law protections regarding Health Information; and

    c.   Plaintiffs' and Class Members' reasonable expectation of privacy over their
        Health Information.

465.   Google knew, or had reason to know, that Plaintiffs and Class Members would interpret the parties' conduct as an agreement that Google would not collect, use, or monetize Plaintiffs' and Class Members' Health Information without their authorization.

Consideration

466.   Google does not provide its services without receiving anything from Plaintiffs and Class Members in return. To the contrary, Plaintiffs' and Class Members' use of Google's services confers significant benefit upon Google—a benefit to which Google is not entitled—money.

467.   Specifically, when Plaintiffs and Class Members use Google's services, Google is able to collect information, including Health Information, about Plaintiffs and Class Members. Google monetizes users' Health Information by serving personalized ads to users, as described above.

468.   In fact, the vast majority of the money Google makes comes from advertising. In 2022 alone, Google generated over $224 billion from advertising.

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<div align="center">Performance</div>

469.   Plaintiffs performed under the implied contract by using Google's services.

<div align="center">Google's Breach of the Implied Contract</div>

470.   Google materially breached its implied contract with Plaintiffs and Class Members by collecting, using, and monetizing Plaintiffs' Health Information without their authorization.

471.   The Health Information Google collects is not publicly accessible click or browsing data.

472.   Nevertheless, information that Plaintiffs and Class Members reasonably thought was private and secure was being collected, used, and monetized by Google.

473.   Plaintiffs and Class Members did not authorize Google to collect, use, or monetize their Health Information.

474.   Google has failed and refused to cure these breaches and continues to collect, use, and monetize Plaintiffs' and Class Members' Health Information.

475.   Google's breach caused Plaintiffs and Class Members the following damages:

a.   Nominal damages for each breach of contract;

b.   General damages for invasion of their rights in an amount to be determined by a jury without reference to specific pecuniary harm;

c.   Sensitive and confidential information that Plaintiffs and Class Members intended to remain private is no longer private;

d.   Google took something of value from Plaintiffs and Class Members and derived benefit therefrom without Plaintiffs' and Class Members' knowledge or informed consent and without sharing the benefit of such value;

e.   Google's actions diminished the value of Plaintiffs' and Class Members' Health Information;

f.   Google's actions violated the property rights Plaintiffs and Class Members enjoy in their private communications; and

g.   Google's actions violated the property rights Plaintiffs and Class Members enjoy in their Health Information.

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476. Plaintiffs and Class Members also seek costs on this claim to the extent allowable.

COUNT TWELVE

BREACH OF IMPLIED CONTRACT

(On behalf of All U.S. Health User Class)

477. Plaintiffs hereby incorporate all other paragraphs as if fully stated herein.

478. An implied contract was created between Google, on the one hand, and Plaintiffs and Class Members, on the other hand, whereby Google offered to provide Plaintiffs and Class Members with Google services that do not require one to sign up for a Google Account (such as Google Search), while at the same time promising that it would not track, collect, or use Plaintiffs' and Class Members' Health Information. Plaintiffs and Class Members accepted Google's offer by using such services instead of other similar services provided by others.

479. Google's Terms of Service and Privacy Policy provide a basis for implied contract between Google, on the one hand, and Plaintiffs and Class Members, on the other hand, as Google maintains that these terms apply when anyone (not just Google Account Holders) "interact[s] with [Google] services." Google Terms of Service at p. 1 (stating "these Terms of Service help define Google's relationship with you *as you interact with our services*") (emphasis added); *see also id.* at 1 (stating that "by using our services, you're agreeing to these terms).

480. Google's Terms of Service and the Google Privacy Policy contain terms stating that Google will ensure compliance with applicable laws, respect and protect privacy rights, not collect Health Information without individuals' consent, and not use Health Information for purposes of personalized advertising.

481. As set forth above and below, in offering its services, Google makes several promises:

GOOGLE TERMS OF SERVICE
No. 1	Google promises that it "want[s] to maintain a respectful environment for everyone, which means you [i.e. individuals and businesses that use Google products and services] must follow [] basic rules of conduct," which includes "compl[ing] with applicable laws," "respect[ing] the rights of others, including privacy and intellectual property

	rights," and refraining from "abuse of harm [to] others…for example, by misleading [or] defrauding…others."
	GOOGLE PRIVACY POLICY
No. 2	Under the sub-heading *Categories of information we collect,* the Google Privacy specifically identifies "health information" as a distinct category of information, and explains that its collection of this information is limited to only when a person "choose[s] to provide it":
	Health information *if you choose to provide it,* such as your medical history, vital signs and health metrics (like blood glucose levels), and other similar information related to your physical or mental health, in the course of using Google services that offer health-related features, such as the Google Health Studies app.
No. 3	Under the sub-heading *Why Google Collects Data,* the Google Privacy Policy promises that Google "do[es] [not] show you personalized ads based on sensitive categories, such as race, religion, sexual orientation, or *health.*"
No. 4	The Google Privacy Policy defines "sensitive categories" as follows:
	"When showing you personalized ads, we use topics that we think might be of interest to you based on your activity. For example, you may see ads for things like 'Cooking and Recipes' or 'Air Travel.' *We don't use topics or show personalized ads based on sensitive categories like race, religion, sexual orientation, or health. And we require the same from advertisers that use our services.*"
No. 5	In the above definition of sensitive categories, the hyperlinked text require the same from advertisers takes individuals to document titled *Personalized advertising*, in which Google promises that it prohibits advertising based on:
	• "Restricted drug terms," such as "prescription medications and information about prescription medications, unless the medication and any listed ingredient are only intended for animal use and are not prone to human abuse or other misuse;" and
	• "personal health content," such as "physical or mental health conditions, including diseases, sexual health, and chronic health conditions"; "[p]roducts, services, or procedures to treat or manage chronic health conditions…"; "any health issues associated with intimate body parts or functions…"; "invasive medical procedures"; and, "[d]isabilities, even when content is oriented toward the user's primary caretaker."
No. 6	The Google Privacy Policy references a document titled *What happens if you violate our policies* page, in which Google promises: "Remarketing lists that don't follow the Personalized advertising policy may be disabled, meaning that these lists can no longer be used with ad campaigns, and new users won't be added to the lists. List creation restrictions may apply to both individual web pages and entire websites or apps."
No. 7	The Google Privacy Policy promises that Google will "protect [users] against security threats, abuse, and illegal activity" by "us[ing] … information to detect, prevent, and

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	respond to security incidents, and for protecting against other malicious, deceptive, fraudulent or illegal activity."
No. 8	The Google Privacy Policy contains a link to "Learn more about how Google uses data when you use our partners' sites or apps." This link takes users to Google's Privacy & Terms page. On the Google Privacy & Terms page, under the sub-tab *Technologies*," Google promises: "Google uses the information shared by sites and apps to … protect against fraud and abuse[.]"
No. 9	The Google Privacy Policy references a document titled *Safeguarding your data*, in which Google promises: "Laws protecting user privacy such as the European Economic Area's General Data Protection Regulation and other privacy laws that establish various rights for applicable US-state residents impact content publishers, application developers, website visitors, and application users…. Google is committed to protecting data confidentiality and security."
No. 10	The Google Privacy Policy references a document titled *What happens if you violate our policies*, in which Google promises users that, "[t]o ensure a safe and positive experience for users, Google requires that advertisers comply with all applicable laws and regulations in addition to the Google Ads policies. Ads, assets, destinations, and other content that violate these policies can be blocked on the Google Ads platform and associated networks."
No. 11	Also on the *What happens if you violate our policies* page, Google promises it will take corrective and punitive actions against advertisers and publishers that do not comply, including immediate suspension for egregious violations, which, in turn, is defined to included unlawful activity.
No. 12	The Google Privacy Policy references a document titled *Legal requirements*, in which Google promises: "We expect all advertisers to comply with the local laws for any area their ads target, in addition to the standard Google Ads policies. We generally err on the side of caution in applying this policy because we don't want to allow content of questionable legality."

482.   These promises reinforce Plaintiffs' and Class Members' expectation of privacy over their Health Information.

<u>Mutual Assent</u>

483.   Such implied contract was created by virtue of the conduct of the parties, as well as the surrounding circumstances, including, but not limited to:

  a. Google's express promises, as noted above;

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1   b.   Federal, State, and common law protections regarding Health Information;

2   and

3   c.   Plaintiffs' and Class Members' reasonable expectation of privacy over their

4   Health Information.

5   484.   Google knew, or had reason to know, that Plaintiffs and Class Members would

6 interpret the parties' conduct as an agreement that Google would not collect, use, or monetize

7 Plaintiffs' and Class Members' Health Information without their authorization.

8 <div align="center">Consideration</div>

9   485.   Google does not provide its services without receiving anything from Plaintiffs and

10 Class Members in return. To the contrary, Plaintiffs' and Class Members' use of Google's services

11 confers significant benefit upon Google—a benefit to which Google is not entitled—money.

12   486.   Specifically, when Plaintiffs and Class Members use Google's services, Google is able

13 to collect information, including Health Information, about Plaintiffs and Class Members. Google

14 monetizes users' Health Information by serving personalized ads to users, as described above.

15   487.   In fact, the vast majority of the money Google makes comes from advertising. In 2022

16 alone, Google generated over $224 billion from advertising.

17 <div align="center">Performance</div>

18   488.   Plaintiffs performed under the implied contract by using Google's services.

19 <div align="center">Google's Breach of the Implied Contract</div>

20   489.   Google materially breached its implied contract with Plaintiffs and Class Members by

21 collecting, using, and monetizing Plaintiffs' Health Information without their authorization.

22   490.   The Health Information Google collects is not publicly accessible click or browsing

23 data.

24   491.   Nevertheless, information that Plaintiffs and Class Members reasonably thought was

25 private and secure was being collected, used, and monetized by Google.

26   492.   Plaintiffs and Class Members did not authorize Google to collect, use, or monetize

27 their Health Information.

28   493.   Google has failed and refused to cure these breaches and continues to collect, use, and

<div align="center">134</div>
<div align="center">CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT</div>

1   monetize Plaintiffs' and Class Members' Health Information.

2   494.   Google's breach caused Plaintiffs and Class Members the following damages:

3   a.   Nominal damages for each breach of contract;

4   b.   General damages for invasion of their rights in an amount to be determined by

5   a jury without reference to specific pecuniary harm;

6   c.   Sensitive and confidential information that Plaintiffs and Class Members

7   intended to remain private is no longer private;

8   d.   Google took something of value from Plaintiffs and Class Members and

9   derived benefit therefrom without Plaintiffs' and Class Members' knowledge

10   or informed consent and without sharing the benefit of such value;

11   e.   Google's actions diminished the value of Plaintiffs' and Class Members'

12   Health Information;

13   f.   Google's actions violated the property rights Plaintiffs and Class Members

14   enjoy in their private communications; and

15   g.   Google's actions violated the property rights Plaintiffs and Class Members

16   enjoy in their Health Information.

17 495.   Plaintiffs and Class Members also seek costs on this claim to the extent allowable.

18 **COUNT THIRTEEN**

19 **GOOD FAITH AND FAIR DEALING**

20 **(On behalf of the Subclass of Google Account Holders)**

21 496.   Plaintiffs hereby incorporate all other paragraphs as if fully stated herein.

22 497.   A valid contract exists between Plaintiffs and Google.

23 498.   The contract specifies that California law governs the parties' relationship.

24 499.   Google prevented Plaintiffs and Class Members from receiving the full benefit of the

25 contract by intercepting their Health Information.

26 500.   By doing so, Google abused its power to define terms of the contract.

27 501.   By doing so, Google did not act fairly and in good faith.

28 502.   Google's breach caused Plaintiffs and Class Members the following damages:

a.   Nominal damages for breach of contract;

b.   General damages for invasion of their privacy rights in an amount to be determined by a jury without reference to specific pecuniary harm;

c.   Sensitive and confidential information including patient status and appointments that Plaintiffs and Class Members intended to remain private are no longer private;

d.   Google eroded the essential confidential nature of the patient-provider relationship;

e.   Google took something of value from Plaintiffs and Class Members and derived benefits therefrom without Plaintiffs' and Class Members' knowledge or informed consent and without sharing the benefit of such value; and

f.   Benefit of the bargain damages in that Google's contract stated that payment for the service would consist of a more limited set of collection of personal information than that which Google actually charged.

VIII.   PRAYER FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, Plaintiffs respectfully requests that this Court:

A.   Certify the proposed Classes, designating Plaintiffs John Doe I and John Doe II as the named representatives of the Class, and designating the undersigned as Class Counsel;

B.   Permanently restrain Defendant, and its officers, agents, servants, employees and attorneys, from using Google Source Code to track, obtain and use Plaintiffs' and Class Members' Health Information;

C.   Award compensatory damages, including statutory damages where available, to Plaintiffs and the Class against Google for all damages sustained as a result of Google's wrongdoing, in an amount to be proven at trial, including interest thereon;

D.   Award punitive damages on the causes of action that allow for them and in an amount that will deter Google and others from like conduct;

E.   Award attorneys' fees and costs, as allowed by law including, but not limited to, California Code of Civil Procedure section 1021.5;

1   F.   Award pre-judgment and post-judgment interest, as provided by law; and

2   G.   For such other, further, and different relief as the Court deems proper under the

3   circumstances.

4   DATED: May 17, 2023   **KIESEL LAW LLP**

5

6

7   By: */s/ Jeffrey A. Koncius*
                                          Paul R. Kiesel
8   Jeffrey A. Koncius
                                          Nicole Ramirez

9
                                          SIMMONS HANLY CONROY LLC
10   Jason 'Jay' Barnes (to be admitted *pro hac vice*)
                                          An Truong (to be admitted *pro hac vice*)
11   Eric Johnson (to be admitted *pro hac vice*)

12   Attorneys for Plaintiffs

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1   **IX.**   <u>**DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL**</u>

2   Plaintiffs, on behalf of themselves and the Classes, demand a trial by jury of any and all issues

3   in this action so triable of right.

4

5   DATED: May 17, 2023   **KIESEL LAW LLP**

6

7   By: */s/ Jeffrey A. Koncius*

8   Paul R. Kiesel
                               Jeffrey A. Koncius

9   Nicole Ramirez

10   **SIMMONS HANLY CONROY LLC**
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11   An Truong (to be admitted *pro hac vice*)
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13   Attorneys for Plaintiffs

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